

Cliff Diving

ANDREW TAYLOR
CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Democrats are pushing an unorthodox idea for coping with the "fiscal cliff": Let the government go over, temporarily at least, to give their party more bargaining leverage for changes later on.

The idea has plenty of skeptics, and the White House regards it frostily. But it illustrates the wide range of early negotiating positions being staked out by Republicans and Democrats as lawmakers gathered Tuesday for their first postelection talks on how to avoid the looming package of steep tax hikes and program cuts.

Just as brazen, in the eyes of many Democrats, is the GOP leaders' continued insistence on protecting tax



Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., speaks outside her office on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J.S. Applewhite)

cuts for the rich. President Barack Obama just won reelection, campaigning on a vow to end those breaks. Democrats and Republicans appear heading toward another round of brinkmanship that will test who blinks first on questions of major importance. It's a dance that has infuriated many Americans, shaken financial markets and drawn ridicule from foreign commentators.

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General Disarray



White House Press Secretary Jay Carney gestures as he speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

White House backs General in Petraeus case

ELISABETH BUMILLER
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President Barack Obama has "faith" in Gen. John R. Allen, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, the White House spokesman said Tuesday, after it was disclosed that the general was under investigation for what the Pentagon called "inappropriate communication" with the woman whose complaint to the FBI set off the scandal involving David H. Petraeus' extramarital affair.

"The president thinks very highly of Gen. Allen," the spokesman, Jay Carney, said at a White House news briefing. "He has faith in Gen. Allen," and believes

that he has done "an excellent job" as commander in Afghanistan, Carney added.

Allen's recent nomination to become the supreme allied commander in Europe, Carney said, is delayed at the request of Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta pending the investigation's outcome. Panetta and other officials disclosed overnight the investigation into Allen's emails with Jill Kelley, the woman in Tampa, Fla., who was seen by Paula Broadwell, Petraeus' lover, as a rival for his attentions. Petraeus' affair led to his resignation as head of the CIA on Friday, and the FBI's investigations into emails in

the matter apparently led in turn to Allen's correspondence.

In a statement released to reporters on his plane en route to Australia early Tuesday, Panetta said the FBI on Sunday had referred "a matter involving" Allen to the Pentagon.

Panetta turned the matter over to the Pentagon's inspector general to conduct an investigation into what a defense official said were thousands of pages of documents, many of them emails between Allen and Kelley.

A senior law enforcement official in Washington said Tuesday that FBI investigators, looking into Kelley's complaint about any-

mous emails she had received, examined all of her emails as a routine step.

"When you get involved in a cybercase like this, you have to look at everything," the official said, suggesting that Kelley may not have considered that possibility when she filed the complaint.

"The real question is why someone decided to open this can of worms."

The official would not describe the content of the emails between Allen and Kelley or say specifically why FBI officials had decided to pass them on to the Defense Department.

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Top US bishop: We won't give in on birth control

RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer
BALTIMORE (AP) — A top American bishop said Tuesday the Roman Catholic church will not comply with the Obama administration requirement that most employers provide health insurance covering birth control.

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said church leaders are open to working toward a resolution with U.S. officials, but will meanwhile press ahead with challenges to the mandate in legislatures and in court.

"The only thing we're certainly not prepared to do is give in. We're not violating our consciences," Dolan told reporters at a U.S. bishops' meeting. "I would say no door is closed except for the door to capitulation."

The bishops have been fighting the regulation since

it was announced by President Barack Obama early this year. Houses of worship and colleges are not. Obama promised to change the requirement employers, would pay for the coverage. But details have not been worked out.

some other religious leaders generally supportive of Obama's health care overhaul have said the compromise proposed so far appears to be unworkable. Dozens of Catholic dioceses and charities have sued over the mandate, along with colleges, including the University of Notre Dame. The bishops have made the issue the centerpiece of a national campaign on preserving religious freedom, which they consider under assault on several fronts from an increasingly secular broader culture. The Department of Health and Human Services adopted the rule as a preventive service meant to protect women's health by allowing them to space their pregnancies. It's unclear what, if any, influence the bishops have with the administration. Many bishops spoke out sharply against Obama during the election. □



Cardinal Sean O'Malley, of Boston, pauses as he speaks at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

are exempt, but religiously affiliated hospitals, charities so that insurance companies, not faith-affiliated And not only the bishops, but Catholic hospitals and

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CASINO AND SHOPS

AROUND THE WORLD

France recognizes new Syrian group

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Hollande says France formally recognizes a new opposition group as the “sole legitimate voice of the Syrian people” — and as a future transitional government for the civil-war struck Arab state. The French leader used his first news conference since taking office six months ago to announce his country's recognition of the Syrian National Coalition, which formed over the weekend. France becomes the first Western nation to grant such a high degree of recognition to the coalition. France had been the first nation to give its blessing to the new formation's predecessor, the Syrian National Council. But the council was eventually criticized as too fractious and too laden with Syrian exiles. The council has a place in the broad-based new grouping but is no longer pre-eminent. □

EU approves \$850M in aid for Italy

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union has approved €670 million (\$850 million) to help Italy's Emilia Romagna region recover from this year's back-to-back earthquakes, despite its disagreement on other budgetary issues. Tuesday's approval by the 27 member states came after pressure from the European Parliament, which had called foot-dragging on the issue shameful. The earthquake aid was part of the protracted 2012-2013 EU budget negotiations, which hit a stalemate last week. An attempt to rescue the talks failed Tuesday, but in a show of goodwill toward Italy, the meeting of budget ministers let the earthquake aid pass. Twenty-four people died in two temblors that struck the agricultural and industrial region in May. □

Colombian kingpin fights extradition

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — An alleged Colombian drug lord captured in Argentina is asking a local judge to reject his extradition to the United States. Henry de Jesus Lopez Londono says he faces political persecution and his life is in danger. Lopez Londono is 41-years-old and is known as “Mi Sangre,” or My Blood. He was caught as he arrived at a restaurant on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on Oct. 30. Authorities say he's the leader of the “Urabenos” gang and is wanted on drug trafficking charges in Colombia and the U.S. Lopez Londono's lawyer denies his client is a drug trafficker and says he gathered evidence while part of a right-wing paramilitary group. Lawyer Carlos Olita says police officers and officials in former President Alvaro Uribe's government are trying to stop him from testifying. □

Kremlin: Obama ready to visit Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian news agencies say Vladimir Putin and Barack Obama have spoken on the phone and the American president has expressed his readiness to visit. The reports said the Russian president called Obama on Tuesday to congratulate him on his re-election. Obama “confirmed his readiness to come to Russia at a date to be agreed upon by the two sides,” the state news agency RIA Novosti quoted Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying. Obama visited Russia as president in 2009 and met with Dmitry Medvedev, who was then the Russian president. U.S.-Russian relations are troubled by Russia's opposition to a U.S.-backed NATO plan to place elements of a missile-defense system in Europe. Putin also has claimed that the protest movement that arose against him the past year gets U.S. backing. □

Dems:

Drive over ‘cliff,’ then bargain

Continued from front

In late 2010, after big GOP midterm election wins, Obama backed off his pledge to raise taxes on the rich. In the summer of 2011, House Republicans pushed Congress within a hair of refusing to raise the debt ceiling, leading to the first-ever downgrade of the government's credit rating.

or most of any new agreements could be made retroactive to Jan. 1, they say. If Republicans refuse to let tax cuts expire for the wealthy, Murray told ABC's “This Week,” “we will reach a point at the end of this year where all the tax cuts expire and we'll start over next year. And whatever we do will be a tax cut for whatever package we put

era tax rates for at least a few weeks to give time for negotiations to continue. Liberals note that tax rate increases would be felt gradually.

“In the first paycheck of the year, people will see that their withholding is up, but it's not the like the whole amount of their tax bill for the course of the year takes place in their first pay-



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, with newly elected Democratic House members. At left is Rep.-elect Patrick Murphy, D-Fla.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

And last December, it was the Republicans' turn to blink, yielding to Obama's demand to extend a payroll tax break.

The “fiscal cliff” deadline comes in seven weeks. One provision: Unless Congress acts, all Bush-era tax cuts would expire, raising 2013 tax bills for most Americans. Obama wants to end those tax cuts only for households making more than \$250,000 a year. Republicans insist on no tax rate increases anywhere. If the “fiscal cliff” takes effect, congressional Republicans would feel pressure to give ground in several areas to achieve their top goal: restoring tax cuts for as many people as possible. That's why Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and other Democrats have said their party's leaders should seriously consider letting the Jan. 1 deadline pass and then negotiate with Republicans under sharply different circumstances. Some

together. That may be the way to get past this.”

Murray's allies say voters would blame Republicans for refusing to yield, especially on tax rates, given that Obama won re-election. A recent Pew Research poll supports that view. More than half of the respondents said they would chiefly blame congressional Republicans if there's no compromise on the fiscal cliff; 29 percent would blame Obama. It's questionable whether Obama and Congress' Democratic leaders would let the government go over the fiscal cliff. Numerous financial analysts say the event would frighten markets, alarm employers and probably trigger a new recession.

However, there's a school of thought that the cliff is actually a slope, and the economy could withstand the effects of the automatic spending cuts and the renewal of Clinton-

check. It happens gradually,” said Chad Stone, an economist with the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The second part of the cliff package includes across-the-board spending cuts of \$109 billion a year, split equally between military and domestic programs and known in Washington-speak as a sequester. Some budget experts say the spending cuts would phase in gradually. Also, Social Security, Medicare and food stamps are exempt. And agency fiscal chiefs have flexibility to mitigate the effects of the sequester.

But such tools are limited. They might buy only a little time before the spending cuts begin to bite harshly, requiring agencies to furlough employees and causing delays in awarding government contracts. Many say even talk of going over the cliff is sheer folly. □

“The Curse of the Commander’s Job”

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the international military headquarters in Kabul, it’s jokingly being called “The Curse of the Commander’s Job.”

The last four U.S. generals to run the Afghan war were either forced to resign or saw their careers tainted by allegations of wrongdoing.

The first, Gen. David McKiernan, was ousted on May 11, 2009, a year before his term as commander was set to end. Then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates wanted McKiernan’s resignation as newly elected President Barack Obama launched a counterinsurgency strategy of working to undermine the Taliban’s pull on the population.

It was the first presidential dismissal of a wartime gen-

eral since President Harry Truman ousted Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War. Obama replaced McKiernan with Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, who had a background in special operations and came in with a mandate to remake the war effort with the help of “surge” troops. But he lasted only 13 months.

In June 2010, Rolling Stone published an article that quoted scathing remarks McChrystal and his aides made about their civilian bosses, including Vice President Joseph Biden, as fools who were ignorant of the complexities of war. Obama called McChrystal back to Washington to explain and forced him to resign. Gen. David Petraeus took over the Afghan command in July 2010 to fill the void left by McChrystal’s abrupt departure and agreed to serve for one year. He completed that term and then retired from the military to become CIA director in September 2011. Petraeus resigned as CIA director on Nov. 9 after he had an extramarital affair with his biographer. The affair came out as part of an FBI investigation into suspicious emails between the

of alleged “inappropriate communications” with the second woman involved in the Petraeus case, a Florida socialite. Allen’s nomination to become the next commander of U.S. European Command and the commander of NATO forces in Europe has now been put on hold.

Expecting Allen to be confirmed for his new post, Obama had already chosen Gen. Joseph Dunford to succeed him. If confirmed, Dunford would be the 15th top commander there since 2002, a revolving door of generals that some analysts say is detrimental to the war effort.

“Rotating top commanders on an annual basis makes no management sense,” Thomas E. Ricks, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, wrote in an opinion



Jill Kelley leaves her home Tuesday, Nov 13, 2012 in Tampa, Fla. Kelley is identified as the woman who allegedly received harassing emails from Gen. David Petraeus’ paramour, Paula Broadwell. She serves as an unpaid social liaison to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, where the military’s Central Command and Special Operations Command are located.

(AP Photo/Chris O’Meara)

White House backs Allen

Continued from front

“Generally, the nature of the emails warranted providing them to DOD,” he said.

Under military law, adultery can be a crime.

The defense official on Panetta’s plane said that Allen, who is also married, told Pentagon officials that he had done nothing wrong. Neither he nor Kelley, who is also married with children, could be reached for comment early Tuesday. Panetta’s statement praised Allen for his leadership in Afghanistan and said, “He is entitled to due process in this matter.”

A senior Defense Department official said Allen had denied having an extramarital affair with Kelley. But the official said the content of some of the emails “was of a flirtatious nature.”

“Some were of an affectionate nature,” the official said, adding that it was unclear whether the flirtatiousness expressed was from Allen to Kelley, from Kelley to Allen, or mutual.

“That is what makes the emails potentially inappropriate,” he said.

The official said that he had not read the emails but had been briefed on the content, and that they did not contain anything inappropriate regarding operations or security.

But there were conflicting

assessments of the content of the emails. Associates of Allen said that the emails were of an innocuous nature. Some of the emails, these associates said, used terms of endearment, but not in a flirtatious way.

Pentagon officials cautioned against making too much of the number of documents, since some might be from email chains, or brief messages printed out on a whole page.

The Pentagon inspector general’s investigation opens up what could be a widening scandal into two of the most prominent generals of their generation: Petraeus, who was the top commander in Iraq and Afghanistan before he retired from the military and became director of the CIA, only to resign Friday because of the affair, and Allen, who also served in Iraq and now commands 68,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Although Allen will remain the commander in Afghanistan, Panetta said that he had asked Obama to delay the general’s nomination to be the commander of U.S. forces in Europe and the supreme allied commander of NATO, two positions he was to move into after what was expected to be easy confirmation by the Senate. Panetta said in his statement that Obama agreed with his request. □



This combination of file photos from 2008-2012 shows, top row from left, Gens. David McKiernan, Stanley A. McChrystal, bottom row from left, David Petraeus and John Allen in Afghanistan. The four U.S. generals led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan since 2008.

(AP Photo)

eral since President Harry Truman ousted Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War.

Obama replaced McKiernan with Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, who had a background in special operations and came in with a mandate to remake the war effort with the help of “surge” troops. But he lasted only 13 months.

In June 2010, Rolling Stone

biographer and another woman.

The current chief, Gen. John Allen, was appointed by Obama to oversee the drawdown of U.S. and international forces ahead of the planned transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan government in 2014.

Pentagon officials said Tuesday that Allen, 58, is under investigation for thousands

piece published Sunday in The New York Times. “Imagine trying to run a corporation by swapping the senior executives every year. Or imagine if, at the beginning of 1944, six months before D-Day, Gen. George C. Marshall, the Army chief of staff, told Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme allied commander, that it was time to give someone else a chance to lead.” □

Death penalty sought in Afghan massacre case

RACHEL LA CORTE

Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Washington (AP)

— U.S. Army prosecutors on Tuesday requested a death penalty court-martial for a soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan villagers in a predawn rampage, saying that Staff Sgt. Robert Bales committed "heinous and despicable crimes." Prosecutors asked an investigative officer to make the recommendation after the end of a hearing that included remote testimony from witnesses in Afghanistan, including a 7-year-old girl who described hiding behind her father as he was shot dead.

Bales, 39, is accused of slipped away from his remote base to attack two villages early on March 11. Among the dead were nine children. He faces 16 counts of premeditated murder and six counts of attempted murder. The killings drew such angry protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan,

and it was three weeks before American investigators could reach the crime scenes. "Terrible, terrible things happened," said the

for Bales argued there's not enough information to move forward with the court-martial. Emma Scanlan said that Bales' state of

mind on the evening of the killings was still unknown. The investigating officer said Tuesday that he would have a written recommendation by the end of the week. The ultimate decision would be made by the three-star general on the base, Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state. None of the Afghan witnesses were able to identify Bales as the shooter, but other evidence, including tests of the blood on his clothes, implicated him, according to testimony from a DNA expert. The lead prosecutor has said that on the night of the killings Bales watched a movie about a former CIA agent on a revenge killing spree, while drinking contraband whiskey. □



Kari Bales, center, stands next to attorney Lance Rosen, left, as they listen as her sister, Stephanie Tandberg, right, reads a statement to reporters Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, outside the building housing a military courtroom on Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington state, where a preliminary hearing ended Tuesday for Kari's husband, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

prosecutor, Maj. Rob Stelle. Several soldiers testified that Bales returned to the base alone just before dawn, covered in blood, and that he made incriminating statements such as, "I thought I was doing the right thing." An attorney

Jurors convict Jessica Tata of murder in day care fire

Brian Rogers

© 2012 Houston Chronicle
Day care operator Jessica Tata stood emotionless Tuesday as a judge announced she was responsible for the deaths of four toddlers last year, but members of the children's families slumped in their seats in the courtroom gallery, softly sobbing. Four weeks before, the mothers and fathers of the dead and injured children testified they trusted Tata and felt betrayed. Tuesday they praised a jury's decision to convict her of felony murder.

"From the bottom of our hearts, we're thankful for today's verdict and we're happy," said Nancy Villanueva, an aunt of 16-month-old Elias Castillo, who died in the Feb. 24, 2011 fire. "Thank you for everybody who's been keeping up with everything."

She was the only family member to give a state-

ment, and prosecutors declined to comment.

Tuesday's verdict, after six hours of deliberations, was a disappointment to Tata and her defense team, but not a surprise.

"The jury has spoken. We accept their verdict and move on to the next phase of the trial," said Mike DeGeurin, Tata's lawyer. He declined to say how Tata, who remains in custody, took the verdict except to say that she remains concerned about the victims' families.

"She's never lost sight of the real victims. The real people to have concern for are the families that lost their children," DeGeurin told a pack of reporters after the verdict. "It's not all about her. It's about a lot more than her."

Prosecutors said a pot of oil that Tata left on a hot burner started the fire after she left the children alone to go shopping. □

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Husband of slain Iraqi pleads not guilty

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

EL CAJON, California (AP)

— The husband of an Iraqi-American woman whose slaying was initially believed to be connected to a hate crime pleaded not guilty Tuesday to murdering her during a domestic dispute.

The killing of Shaima Alawadi last March drew international attention after the couple's teenage daughter said she found a note by her mother's bloodgeoned body that read: "Go back to your country, you terrorist."

The victim's husband, Kassim Alhimidi, appeared briefly in Superior Court after being charged with murder in the case. He was ordered held without bail after prosecutors argued that he had recently traveled to Iraq and was a flight risk.

Alawadi, 32, had left Iraq

in the early 1990s after a failed Shiite uprising. She had lived in Saudi Arabian refugee camps before coming to the U.S.



Kassim Alhimidi, right, speaks alongside his son, Mohammed Alhimidi, during a memorial for his wife, Shaima Alawadi at a mosque in Lakeside, Calif. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

Police initially looked into the possibility that she had been the victim of a hate crime but later concluded she was killed by her hus-

band. Detectives found documents in Alawadi's car indicating she had planned to seek a divorce, according to a sealed search warrant affidavit that was inadvertently given to a U-T reporter. In addition, the affidavit showed the couple's 17-year-old daughter was distraught over a pending arranged marriage to her cousin in Iraq and was found in a car with another man in November 2011. Author Nina Burleigh, who has written extensively about the mix of Islam and Western societies, said the case highlights the sometimes dangerous clashes that can occur when female immigrants, particularly from Islamic countries, rebel against cultural restrictions and exercise choices made available in their adopted homelands. "These things are happening all over the place," Burleigh said. □

Family plots murder-suicide, 3 kids die

JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)

— Caught up in a family disagreement over who should care for three young children, a grandmother and her son barricaded themselves and the kids in a garage and filled it with deadly carbon monoxide gas.

All five died.

Police spent Tuesday trying to explain the heartbreaking scene discovered a day earlier at the home of 54-year-old Sandy Ford

and her son Andy in a quiet Toledo neighborhood.

Firefighters using a sledgehammer broke down the garage door to find the bodies of 5-year-old Madalyn Hayes, her 6-year-old brother Logan and 10-year-old sister Paige slumped inside a car, along with their grandmother and uncle. Two hoses attached to the exhaust of a pickup truck pumped gas fumes through the car's rear window.

Police said letters inside the house indicated the wom-

an and her son plotted the murder-suicide, beginning by picking up the children from school Monday morning after their mother had dropped them off earlier. They also had disabled the garage door opener and nailed plywood over the windows, said Toledo police Sgt. Joe Heffernan. He wouldn't say what was in the letters, but it appeared some were written by the children.

"We're trying to figure out all the why's in this," he said. □

Free online courses will be evaluated for college credit

TAMAR LEWIN

© 2012 New York Times

While massive open online courses, or MOOCs, are still in their early days, the race has begun to integrate them into traditional colleges — both by making them eligible for transfer credits, and by putting them to use in introductory and remedial courses.

On Tuesday, the American Council on Education, the leading umbrella group for higher education, and Coursera, a Silicon Valley MOOC provider, announced a pilot project to determine whether some free online courses are similar enough to traditional college courses that they should be eligible for credit. The council's credit evaluation process will begin early next year, using faculty teams to begin to assess how much students who complete Coursera MOOCs have learned. Students who want to take the free classes for credit would have to pay a fee to take an identity-verified, proctored exam. If the faculty team deems the course worthy of academic credit, students who do well could pay for a transcript to submit to the college of their choice.

Colleges are not required to accept those credits, but similar transcripts are already accepted by 2,000 U.S. colleges and universities for training courses offered by the military or by employers.

Coursera, founded last year by two Stanford com-

puter professors, Daphne Koller and Andrew Ng, has 33 university partners and nearly 2 million students who can earn certificates of completion but not academic credit for their work. "I feel strongly that degrees are really valuable to people, and having MOOCs allow for credit down the line will increase the number of students with the confidence and wherewithal to complete degrees," Koller said. "If you're a random student from another country, what are your chances of being admitted to a university here? But if you can show you're a motivated student who's completing five courses and done well on the proctored exam, I think a university would pay attention."

The project is being watched closely by higher-education experts who expect MOOCs to broaden access to higher education and bring down the costs. "With the additional benefits of ACE credit recommendation for Coursera courses, students will have an unprecedented opportunity to obtain recognized credentials for their work," said William G. Bowen, the former president of Princeton University and the Mellon Foundation, and senior adviser to Ithaka, a not-for-profit group devoted to digital technologies in higher education.

Also Tuesday, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced 13 grants, totaling more than \$3 million, for MOOC research. □

Iran says it's tested new air defense system

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran said Tuesday it successfully tested a new air defense system modeled after the U.S. Hawk system during a drill in the country's east. A senior Iranian official called the maneuvers a "slap" to America and Israel.

State TV broadcast footage Tuesday said to be from the drill, which began Saturday and which has been billed as "massive." The footage shows a Hawk missile being launched and hitting a mock aircraft.

Earlier reports said the new surface-to-air system is named "Mersad," or Ambush. It is capable of locking a flying object at a distance of 80 kilometers (50 miles) and can hit from 45 kilometers (30 miles) away, state TV said.

According to the reports, the Iranian military is expected to test anti-aircraft batteries and other air defense systems as part of the drill.

"This military exercise is a message and a strong slap to those countries that threaten," said air defense chief Gen. Farzad Esmaili, referring to the United States and Israel. "And a message of peace and friendship to friendly countries."

Both Israel and the U.S.

have not ruled out a military option against Iran's suspect nuclear program, which the West fears intends to produce an atomic weapon. Iran denies the charge, saying its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

The test came during a six-day air defense drill under way over almost the entire eastern half of the country. The exercise has been said to include Iranian jet fighters, drones and more than 8,000 troops. □



In this photo obtained from the Iranian Mehr News Agency, Iranian army members prepare missiles to be launched, during a maneuver, in an undisclosed location in Iran, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012. Iran said Tuesday it successfully tested a new air defense system modeled after the U.S. Hawk system during a drill in the country's east.

(AP Photo/Mehr News Agency, Majid Asgaripour)

Israel prepares "David's Sling" missile defense system for 2014 deployment

LAUREN E. BOHN
Associated Press

CARMIEL, Israel (AP) — Israel's newest missile defense system, designed to provide another layer of protection against enemy fire, is on schedule for deployment in 2014, defense officials said Tuesday.

The "David's Sling" system, named after the famous weapon in the biblical David and Goliath story, is part of a multi-layered defense against incoming rockets and missiles. Two of the elements are operational.

Last year, Israel activated a system that intercepts rockets fired from short distances of up to 70 kilometers (50 miles). Israel says "Iron Dome" has shot down dozens of rockets launched from the Gaza Strip, including several fired over the

past week, with 80 percent effectiveness.

Israel has also deployed the "Arrow," a joint Israel-U.S. system meant to shoot down longer range missiles fired from Iran. The next generation of the Arrow, now in the development stage, is set to be deployed in 2016.

The next generation, called the Arrow 3, will strike its target outside atmosphere, intercepting missiles closer to their launch. Together, the two Arrow systems will provide two chances to strike down incoming missiles.

Israel also uses U.S.-made Patriot missile defense batteries against medium-range missiles.

An Israeli defense official familiar with the system said it has passed a number of preliminary tests, but it has

not yet undergone a live interception drill. He said it is on schedule to be deployed in 2014.

Uzi Rubin, a former head of Israel's missile defense program, said the system will fill a "significant gap" in Israel's air defenses by protecting against many of the medium range missiles in Hezbollah and Syrian arsenals. It can also be deployed against low flying cruise missiles fired from longer distances.

"Once we finish David's Sling and Iron Dome and the Arrow, then we'll have the most advanced capability available to give a multilayer protection to Israeli citizens," said the defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing classified information. □



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Europe seeks accord on regulation after split on Greek debt

JAMES KANTER

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BRUSSELS – European Union finance ministers sought Tuesday to overcome their differences about how to regulate banks after a sharp and public disagreement on proposals to make Greece's debt sustainable into the next decade. A plan to establish one banking supervisor under the aegis of the European Central Bank for the 6,000 lenders in the euro area dominated a second day of talks here. A day earlier, finance ministers concentrated on Greek plight, which still threatens to derail the eurozone after dragging on for more than two years.

Establishing a banking supervisor is seen as an important step toward breaking the so-called doom loop in which



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, right, shakes hands with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras at EU headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012. Shoring up Europe's banking sector and strengthening oversight of economic policies topped the agenda of a meeting Tuesday of the European Union's 27 finance ministers.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

fragile banks can endanger national finances and

push countries toward full bailouts.

Germany made the creation of one supervisor

a prerequisite for states to tap a new European bailout fund and use the money to recapitalize their banks directly. But Luc Frieden, the finance minister of Luxembourg, said Tuesday that the system could still be months away. "We shouldn't be fixed to dates," Frieden said. "If it takes three months longer, it's no problem."

Maria Fekter, the Austrian finance minister, asked whether the creation of a supervisor would require changes to the EU treaty or "be the better solution" in creating a banking union.

"Speed kills when we don't have the best solution," she told ministers.

The European Commission has said a unified system of regulation could be in operation next year. □



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New opposition head al-Khatib gives renewed hope to Syrians

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's political opposition has struggled to prove its relevance amid the civil war under a leadership largely made up of academics and exiled politicians. With its relaunch as a new organization, it has taken a different tack: choosing as its head a popular Muslim cleric who preaches sectarian unity and can fire up a crowd.

The selection of a moderate religious figure, Mouaz al-Khatib, to head the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces is also an attempt to counter the growing influence of Islamic extremists in the rebellion against President Bashar Assad.

While lacking in political ex-

perience, the 52-year-old preacher-turned-activist is described by Syrians as a man of the people — a modest, unifying figure who commands wide respect among the country's various opposition groups and rebels.

A Sunni Muslim former preacher at Damascus' historic Umayyad Mosque, al-Khatib warned against the militarization of the Syrian uprising and the pitfalls of sectarianism very early in the conflict.

"My brothers, we lived all our lives, Sunnis, Shiites, Alawites and Druse as a one-hearted community, and with us lived our dear brothers who follow Jesus peace be upon him," he told a crowd of supporters in a Damascus suburb in April 2011, only one

month into the uprising.

"We should adhere to this bond between us and protect it at all times," he added, drawing in excited cries of "One, one, one! The Syrian people are one!"

Twenty months into the conflict — as Syria sinks deeper in a civil war with increasingly deadly sectarian overtones — it is this message of unity and moderation that many inside and outside the country are hoping the new leaders can help convey.

Under intense international pressure to form an opposition that includes representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple Assad, the anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday to form the coalition headed by al-Khatib. The coalition includes representatives from the main opposition group. □



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'Guru' swindler of French aristocrats gets 8 years

LORI HINNANT
THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — He started with the woman who hired him at the secretarial school, befriending her and winning her confidence. She introduced him to her elderly mother, her children. Her grandchildren, nearing adulthood, were next. Soon, Thierry Tilly was almost a member of the family of aristocrats. Then he dropped the bombshell: Someone wanted them dead. Bit by bit, family members saw sinister motives in even ordinary encounters. They retreated to their chateau, where Tilly took away their clocks, their calendars, their sense of time. One by one, they relocated with him to Oxford, England, then returned to their Bordeaux

home where, the family lawyer said, they were cut off from friends and relatives. "There was no day and no night," said the lawyer, Daniel Picotin. Protection didn't come cheap: They sold their ancestral home, apartments, jewels, wine collection, luxury watches — more than 4.5 million euros in all — handing over the proceeds to Tilly, a man they saw as their protector, even their "guru." The family was in hiding for nearly a decade before two of the adult children realized Tilly wasn't what he appeared. "We were a normal family that stumbled into an abnormal story," Christine de Vedrines, who first sounded the alarm when her employer declared she

and her family were being brainwashed, said in a radio interview. "Thierry Tilly is not a guru; he's a predator." Tilly, whose manipulation of the de Vedrines family has led to comparisons to the Russian mystic Rasputin's legendary influence over the tsar, was sentenced to eight years in prison on Tuesday, convicted of arbitrary detention, using violence against vulnerable people and abusing people weakened by "psychological subjection." Tilly held the family in his sway from 2000, a year after he was hired by Ghislaine de Vedrines to work at her secretarial school, until 2009. During that time, he led 11 people — ages 16 to 89 — to believe there was a secret plot against their lives, according to



Thierry Tilly leaves the court of Bordeaux, southwestern France. The alleged modern-day Rasputin was convicted Tuesday Nov. 13, 2012 of brainwashing three generations of an aristocratic French family for nearly a decade. Tilly was sentenced to eight years in prison by the court. (AP Photo)

court testimony. Skeptics like Ghislaine's

husband were shunned, according to Picotin. The presiding judge, Marie-Elisabeth Bancal, described it as a "Machiavelian plot." Picotin said the family's money was poured into a fake charity that Tilly, now 48, claimed was set up to pay the Vedrines' "protectors." "He persuaded them they were surrounded by enemies," Picotin said. With the trial over, Christine de Vedrines told the Sipa news agency the family would somehow rebuild. "Eight years is a small price to pay for what he did to our family and children," said Christine de Vedrines, who Picotin said was locked up by the family for nearly two weeks and deprived of sleep and food before managing to get away. Picotin said he hopes to help the family reacquire their ancestral home. As for the rest, he said, "it's all gone." □

UK: Retired bishop arrested in sex abuse probe

LONDON (AP) — Police have arrested a retired Church of England bishop and a retired priest in an investigation of alleged child sex abuse in the diocese of Chichester. Britain's Press Association said 80-year-old retired bishop Peter Ball was arrested at his home on suspicion of eight offenses with boys and young men in the 1980s and 1990s. Police would not identify the suspect, but when asked about Ball, police said the force arrested an 80-year-old at his home on suspicion of sex offenses. He was later released at his home "on medical advice" and police said they intend to interview him at a later date. British police do not generally identify suspects under arrest by name until they are charged.

Police confirmed that a 67-year-old priest also was arrested on suspicion of abuses in 1981 and 1983. He was not identified, but police later said he had been released on bail while inquiries continue. The bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, said the

church had cooperated with the investigation. □

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Chile's Allende granddaughter loses mayor election

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Maya Fernandez Allende, granddaughter of Chile's late Marxist President Salvador Allende, lost her first major political race Tuesday after a recount, the electoral committee said. Fernandez Allende, 41, lost the mayorship of Santiago's Nunoa district by 30 votes to incumbent Mayor Pedro Sabat of the center-right National Renovation party. Initial results last month put Fernandez Allende ahead and Sabat conceded. But his party demanded a recount at the National Stadium, where dozens of left-ist dissidents were tortured and killed during the military dictatorship that ousted her grandfather in 1973. Her grandfather killed himself rather than surrender.

Chile's electoral committee said Tuesday that Sabat got 34,247 votes to Fernandez Allende's 34,217. Sabat has won the district three other times in 16 years. Fernandez Allende has not

spoken publicly since the recount began, but a message to her followers on her Facebook page seemed to predict the reversal of the outcome.

"Let's put away sadness

because this is a victory (in itself)," she said. "We need to learn to work together and put differences aside." Sabat, 58, also served as mayor of Nunoa in 1987-89 during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who hand-picked mayors. During big protests over the past year, students fought fiercely against Sabat, sometimes even occupying his office and closing schools. He reacted by ordering police to crack down on the protests and once even called a girls school a "whorehouse." Sabat apologized for the comment.

"I'm going to try to refrain from saying what I've said when these youngsters spit in my face and destroy schools," Sabat said at a news conference. "I'll try to be closer to everyone and

try to take a more social approach, in other words, be a better mayor in this next four years."

For many who participated in the student protest movement, this was their first chance to vote and many saw Fernandez Allende as a figure who could help guide Chile to significant change.

Allende, a socialist who has sided with the students, ran a campaign in which she went door-to-door with an army of women asking about voter demands and looking beyond the divisive politics that have marred Chile for years.

She said she wanted to change what she called Chile's out-of-touch, right-wing and male-dominated politics.

"I always liked politics, it's always been a topic of conversation at the family table, an everyday topic," Fernandez Allende said in a recent interview with the newspaper La Tercera.

"I believe my grandfather and my family took the decision about getting involved in politics because it was their calling," she said. □



Carolina Leitao, Maya Fernandez Allende (center) and Carolina Toha attend an event in Santiago, Chile. Maya Fernandez Allende, granddaughter of Chile's late Marxist President Salvador Allende, lost her first major political race Tuesday after a recount, the electoral committee said.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

Mexico using tortilla wrapper ads for missing

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico

(AP) — A border state in northern Mexico is trying something it hopes will be more effective than photos on milk cartons to help find missing women and children. It's using advertisements on tortilla wrappers.

At least three dozen tortilla shops have joined in the Chihuahua state campaign to print appeals for help on the thin paper wrappers that shopkeep-



Corn tortillas, packaged with advertisements asking for help to find missing women and children, sit for sale at the Hermanos Escobar Tortilla shop in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Tuesday Nov. 13, 2012.

(AP Photo/Raymundo Ruiz)

ers use to wrap up a pound or two of hot tortillas at a time. The campaign started this week, and has been welcomed by shopkeepers and customers in the violence-racked border city of Ciudad Juarez.

Ciudad Juarez was hit by a series of eerily similar killings of more than 100 mainly young women beginning in 1993. While those killings have tapered off, killings and disappearances continue. □



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Belize police urge software McAfee founder to appear

**PATRICK E. JONES
Associated Press**

BELIZE CITY (AP) — Police are urging software company founder John McAfee to come in for questioning and help solve the killing of his neighbor on the Caribbean island where they lived, officials said Tuesday. McAfee, 67, has been identified as a "person of interest" in the killing of 52-year-old Gregory Viant Faull, whose body was found on Sunday. McAfee reportedly told Wired magazine on Monday that he had nothing to do with the death, but feared police would kill him if they find him. He said he hid in the sand when he saw police coming to his house Sunday and put a cardboard box over his head to breathe.

"We want to encourage him to come in," said Raphael Martinez, spokesman for Belize's Ministry of National Security, to The Associated Press on Tuesday. "If he feels threatened, we need to tell him, 'Get someone to go along with you, but come in. Let's solve this crime and you can free yourself.'"

Martinez said two people have been detained in the investigation for questioning. But he added that police have yet to establish a motive in the crime.

Faull was found with a gunshot wound to his head inside his two-story home north of San Pedro, a town

on the island of Ambergris Caye, Martinez said. The housekeeper discovered the body Sunday morning and called police. Martinez said that no charges had been filed in the case.

McAfee told Wired that whoever shot Faull may have been gunning for him instead and mistakenly killed his neighbor.

San Pedro Mayor Daniel Guerrero said that Faull had given the town council a letter complaining that McAfee's dogs were running loose, chasing cyclists and attacking people and that his security guards trespassing on other homeowners' property.

Still, Guerrero said there wasn't enough evidence for him to say McAfee is a suspect.

"Both of them were my friends. It's hard. It's something that has shocked the community", Guerrero said.

Faull's family said in a statement that the Orlando, Florida man, owner of a construction business, had just finished rebuilding his Belize home and was planning to offer it as a vacation rental while he sailed the seas.

"Losing Greg leaves a hole in our hearts and our lives. We urge law enforcement authorities in Belize and internationally to bring those responsible to justice quickly," the statement said.

Belize police said they be-

lieve McAfee is still in Belize, but would contact authorities in the United States, Mexico and Guatemala if there are signs he has left

anti-virus software company that is named for him in the early 1990s and moved to Belize about three years ago to lower his taxes.



**John McAfee is seen in this undated Facebook profile photo.
(John McAfee)**

the country. The AP tried unsuccessfully to contact McAfee by email.

McAfee sold his stake in the

He told The New York Times in 2009 that he had lost all but \$4 million of his \$100 million fortune in the U.S. financial crisis.

Last April, Belize police raided McAfee's home looking for drugs and guns. McAfee said officers found guns, which he said were legal, and he was released without charge after being detained for a few hours.

He also has another property in mainland Belize, a compound of thatched-roof homes near the Mexico border.

One resident of the island told the AP that Faull had complained about McAfee's behavior, and others said the former software executive was hard to befriend. "His physical appearance doesn't really inspire you to go over and make friends with him. He's a little scruffy looking," said real estate agent, Bob Hamilton. □

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The empty chair at Colombia's peace talks

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

There will be an empty seat at the negotiating table when Colombians plunge into talks next week on ending a conflict that has bled the South American nation for a half century.

It's reserved for a 62-year-old economist, a senator's son and boyhood friend to a future president who is penned up at the maximum-security prison in the Rocky Mountains where the United States holds its most notorious convicted terrorists. Ricardo Palmera's journey from the apex of Colombian society to a soldier in a peasant-based army and finally to a U.S. prison mirrors the complexity of the class-based conflict that the talks in Cuba mean to end — and the depth of U.S. involvement in it. His commitment to reforming a society marked by deep inequities, at a time right-wing death squads were killing off such activists, led him to join a rebel force that has kidnapped and extorted, re-

cruited child soldiers and financed itself through the cocaine trade.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, named Palmera to its five-person

negotiating team fully aware the odds against his participation were long. It considers him a prisoner of war and highly values his intellectual firepower.

As a member of an officially

er" Ted Kaczynski, "shoe bomber" Richard Reid and some al-Qaida operatives. Palmera is scheduled for release in 2056, at age 106.

A rare recent image in a YouTube video dated November 2010 shows Palmera sitting in a prison conference room in yellow coveralls, speaking via video hookup to a Colombian judge.

He is bald and solidly built. His wrists are chained together. So are his ankles. And he tells the judge there are batteries strapped to one of his legs so prison guards can remotely administer a disabling electrical shock.

"I have been in complete isolation for more than five years, without being able to exchange conversation with others because I don't speak the language," he says. Palmera is permitted direct contact only with his lawyer, a public defender, and immediate family. He gets 45 minutes of phone calls a month, which he uses to speak to his brother Jaime, to his 92-year-old mother and his 38-year-old son, Manuel, who hadn't seen his father for two decades before their eyes met in a Washington courtroom six years ago.

A daughter, Alix Maria, died along with her mother, a guerrilla, when government aircraft attacked a FARC camp. The teenager

was visiting during a school holiday.

Palmera was captured in 2004 while trying to negotiate freedom for imprisoned rebels in exchange for three American contractors held hostage in jungle gulags by the FARC. The Americans were rescued four years later, along with former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

Palmera was extradited to the U.S., then a jury in Washington convicted him and he was sentenced to the maximum of 60 years in prison for hostage-taking conspiracy, though prosecutors presented no evidence he was directly involved in the men's capture or imprisonment.

Many Colombians believe the prosecution of Palmera, who is better known by his nom de guerre Simon Trinidad, was above all a U.S. gesture of political support for then-President Alvaro Uribe, who badly weakened the rebels with more than \$7 billion in U.S. aid and close military coordination. "The U.S. government would be making a great contribution to reconciliation in the Colombian family by making Simon's physical participation at this table possible," the FARC's top negotiator, Ivan Marquez, said at the talks' inauguration in Norway on Oct. 18. □



Jailed rebel Ricardo Palmera, alias Simon Trinidad, is seen at the U.S. federal penitentiary in Florence, Colorado. Palmera's journey from the Colombia's highest social circles to jungle battle-grounds and finally to a U.S. prison mirrors the complexity of the confrontation that the talks starting this week in Cuba are meant to end. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, considers him a prisoner of war.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Jaime Palmera)

designated terrorist organization, the former college professor spends his days in near-isolation along with roughly 440 other inmates at the ultra-secure "Supermax" federal penitentiary in Florence, Colorado. Also held there are "Unabomb-

Brazil prosecutors want God phrase off of Brazilian notes

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — A prosecutor is trying to get God off of Brazilian bank notes....

Public prosecutor Jefferson Dias argues that the country is a secular state and that the phrase "God be praised" disregards the rights of non-Christians, and on Tuesday he asked a federal court to order the phrase removed.

"The fact that most Brazilians are Christian does not justify the 'violation of the fundamental rights of those that follow different reli-

gions or do not believe in God," Dias said in the motion he filed with the court. Brazil's public prosecutor's office is separate from the executive branch of government and it is supposed to defend the social and individual rights of citizens as well as serving as a watchdog over the government. A spokeswoman for the agency said the initiative for the motion apparently came from Dias.

The Assembly of God Church, one of the largest evangelical denominations

in Brazil, opposed the motion.

"God must be praised all the times and everywhere," said church official Tilza Feliciano. The Roman Catholic archbishop of Sao Paulo, Cardinal Odilo Scherer, spoke to the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper and asked, "Why is an allusion to God a problem?"

"The phrase should make no difference to those who do not believe in God," he said. "But it is meaningful for all those who do believe in God." □

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The Shops at Alhambra continue 'Midweek Shopping' on Wednesdays

PUNTO BRABO: The Shops at Alhambra formerly known as Alhambra Shopping Bazaar has had a fabulous family activity where families can go and have a great time and get to know this new establishment.

This Wednesday November 14th, 2012 there'll be another grand family shopping night.

One and all can come and enjoy this tremendous offer at the different shops. For example Daher & Co. is offering a 10% discount on their latest collection. The Market will have chicken or ribs at giveaway prices. Stop in Aruba Aloe, R-Glass and get a free gift. Little Caesars is offering 6 pieces of crazy bread with each large pizza and Dunkin Donuts will offer free donuts with the purchase of their special coffee. At the Divi Logo Store get a free bag with every purchase. Buy a foot-long at Subway and get two free cookies.

Drop in Lazy Lizard and receive a free gift with each purchase.

At Fusion, prices will be changed from U.S. dollars to the local currency, florins and so much more.

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And as a bonus treat the popular Casin Giel and the Sweet Cassenger will be performing from 6-10pm.

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The Blue Lobster Restaurant is... Moving Forward!

ORANJESTAD: Proud owners and staff of the Blue Lobster Restaurant are looking back on this past season which was a great experience not only for the staff but also for the thousands of customers, who chose this new eatery as their favorite place for fine dining and in many cases for a secluded and relaxed ambiance for a spectacular lunch.

Many happy families and friends are now getting back to their beloved Aruba after a full year of hard work, looking forward to enjoy another wonderful vacation full of nice moments and good memories.

The Blue Lobster is high on the list of places to fulfill such customer's objectives, and will contribute by fulfilling their culinary expectations.

The Blue Lobster is ready to receive this upcoming season's Aruba Lovers, and is excited for them to become The Blue Lobster's Lovers as well!

Based on recommendations by our appreciated clientele, the Blue Lobster decided to add to its already extensive menu, a



number of desired new dishes, so everyone will get almost everything under one roof.

If you are a fresh fish lover, The Blue Lobster is now offering FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY, superbly prepared, and you can choose the sauce to top it, so you ask and you get your fish dish the way you will enjoy it best. On the menu you find fresh barracuda, wahoo, mahi mahi, red snapper (plate size), as well as high quality tuna steak, grouper fillet and much more!

LIVE LOBSTER is becoming the plate of the day at The Blue Lobster: 2kilo, 1kilo and 1 pound, live lobsters, prepared a la termidor, or practically in any way you want it, but with the chef's secret touch, this dish is so popular, that some customers are coming back to get some more even 3 times before leaving the island.

The demand for lunch at The Blue Lobster is increasing rapidly, and reservations are becoming more recommended. The lunch menu at The Blue Lobster has also been expanded to have a variety of fresh fish right from Aruba's waters, served for lunch on a daily basis and presented a la Aruban style, with delicious "funchi" (polenta) and the blue lobster's already famous "creolle sauce". Local dishes are making a grand debut at The Blue Lobster during lunch time, fresh homemade soups and carni stoba (local style stew beef) could be your choice, or perhaps a wonderful "mocha" of barracuda, with fried sweet plantain and rice or mashed potatoes, could call your attention. You owe it to yourself; your trip to Aruba would be incomplete if a trip to the Aruban cuisine

is not in your plans. If you have plans for a big meal at night, then a light lunch can be also taken at The Blue Lobster restaurant, 3 of the 34 tapas available will do just right. So much is happening at The Blue Lobster getting really ready so the Next 5 months (our High Season) are to be exciting and appealing to the thousands that have The Blue Lobster high on the list



ster those celebrating their anniversary are treated to a real romantic moment



of MUST VISIT restaurants in Aruba. TRIP ADVISOR has already recognized these efforts by delivering a "CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD" to the restaurant. 10BEST.COM has also visited and qualified The Blue Lobster restaurant which at this moment it's been evaluated to make it part of the 10Best seafood restaurants on the Island. ARUBA'S BEST just notified that The Blue Lobster will be receiving an award this coming January as "THE BEST LOBSTER RESTAURANT ON THE ISLAND" Not bad.... 3 mentions in 9 months of service, this must say something about the extraordinary and superb quality of the food being served at The Blue Lobster restaurant, let alone the personalized professional service granted there. Besides all this, now walking into the restaurant gives you the sensation of walking into a relaxing, tropical reef, where you are welcomed by lots of colorful fish, crabs, turtles and even a Mermaid. At the blue lob-

and a Free Desert and a Free Glass of Comte De Laube making this an un-



forgettable moment. The singing chef comes out of the kitchen to join the restaurant staff in singing Happy Birthday a la Aruban style while a Free Desert is presented with a beautiful lighted flair to those celebrating such important date.

So, certainly "THE BLUE LOBSTER RESTAURANT" can say it's MOVING FORWARD! □

Beauty On The Beach

Diana and Anabela

Sisters Diana and Anabela are in Aruba with their parents. It is their first time in Aruba and they love the freedom to come and go wherever they want! They are staying at Occidental Grand.

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An unforgettable wine tasting at Le Bistro Restaurant!



The wines tasted at Le Bistro Restaurant's wine tasting last Friday were out of this world even though the name of the event was 'Around the World'. Unusual grapes make for unusual and surprising wines and the Aligoté from the Bourgogne, the Viognier from Argentina, the excellent Australian Merlot, the palate caressing Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile and the sweet, but oh so delicious Orange Muscat from California and their accompanying tapas-sized dishes had the guests at the two wine tasting sessions at Le Bistro literally swooning. In the world of wine lovers every wine has a story. A wine is the end result of a journey, which starts with its 'terroir' and vines; the finale of the process is the aging in stainless steel or oak barrels before the wine is bottled. That there is a lot to tell about a glass of wine, was proven by vinologist Govert van der Hout of Arion Wine Company, who guided the two sessions of tastings at Le Bistro. Hosted by manager Danny van Haalen, the evening was a great success.

The first wine that was poured to the guests, seated on the lovely terrace of the restaurant in the Paseo Herencia Mall, was the Aligoté from Simonnet

Febvre 2010 from the Bourgogne, France. Simonnet Febvre is located in the Chablis region in the north of Burgundy and its unusual grape Aligoté can only be found in this region. This fresh, crispy wine, which undergoes a second fermentation, went superbly with the salad of baby spinach leaves with bits of bacon and baby tomatoes. The second wine tasted was the Viognier from Bodegas Callia Magna 2011, San Juan, Argentina. Well-heeled Meijndert Pon from Holland started a winery in Argentina a few years back where he makes a creamy, full and exclusive wine from the viognier grape. Having aged in stainless steel barrels, his wine therefore does not have an oaky taste – it enhanced and balanced the oh so spicy stir-fried shrimps.

Govert van der Hout quoted "A well balanced person has a glass of wine in each hand" before he went on to explain how Alice White, a 20-year old winery from Australia, became so successful. Judging from the excellent Merlot 2011 from South Eastern Australia, the answer seems easy: the company makes outstanding wines and quality sells. The Merlot and the pasta with truffle sauce loved each other; every-

one agreed to that!

The Sibaris by Undurraga Reserva Especial 2009, a Cabernet Sauvignon from the Maipo Valley in Chile made true believers out of the guests at Le Bistro. Together with the lamb in mint sauce it was a match made in heaven. The Sibaris is a wine that one won't soon forget!

Not many people want to drink a dessert wine after dinner, but at Le Bistro the Quady Winery Essensia 2010 Orange Muscat from Madera, California made sweet plus sweet by the caramelized custard into a fantastic finale that no one could resist, even though they tried. Good company, the five wines plus their love-

ly plates with small portions of delightful fare made the evening into a feast. Glowing praise once again for the excellent wine tasting of Mr. van der Hout and the perfect hosting at Le Bistro! In the picture the athletic ladies of the spinning class of Healthy Living enjoying a night out at Le Bistro. □

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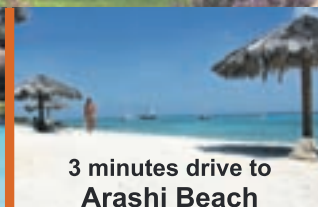
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At Caribbean Palm Village Resort:

Angela and Marie Trovati honored for their loyalty to the island



NOORD – The Caribbean Palm Village Resort hosted a “spirited” Manager’s Cocktail Party recently, as the resort celebrated the season by inviting guests and employees to dress up and participate in fun games. In celebration of the resort’s 25th anniversary, every week during the Man-

ager’s Cocktail Party, the resort recognizes owners who have purchased time-share units before construction even began. This week, Angela and Marie Trovato, from Syracuse, New York, were honored by Interim General Manager Astrid Muller for their trusting purchase. The sisters first came to the island in 1977.



On the island, Angela met and fell in love with local Jaime Luydens. Jaime’s sister, a timeshare representative at Playa Linda, introduced Marie and Angela to a timeshare representative of the Caribbean Palm Village resort. When they visited the property, there was nothing to see

but a model. But the unit was large and the price was right, so they decided to buy timeshare at the resort, sight unseen. Angela and Jaime have now been married 32 years, coming back to Aruba ever since to enjoy their timeshare unit at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. During the cer-

emony, Angela and Marie talked about how much they love the people of Aruba, describing them as pleasant and accommodating. Photos show everyone having a good time during the weekly Manager’s Cocktail Party at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their “Aruhiba” logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free “Aruhiba” cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

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Sundin, Sakic, Oates and Bure enter hockey HoF

TORONTO (AP) — There is something missing from Mats Sundin's new plaque at the Hockey Hall of Fame — and it's not because the printer made a mistake.

Among the list of his many achievements is no mention of an 18th National Hockey League season, the one that was never played because of the 2004-05 lockout.

Sundin never managed to win a Stanley Cup during his career and can't help but wonder what could have been had that lock-out season been played. His Toronto Maple Leafs were on a run of six consecutive playoff appearances before that work stoppage.

"It was awful," Sundin on Monday before the induction ceremony. "I think it's devastating."

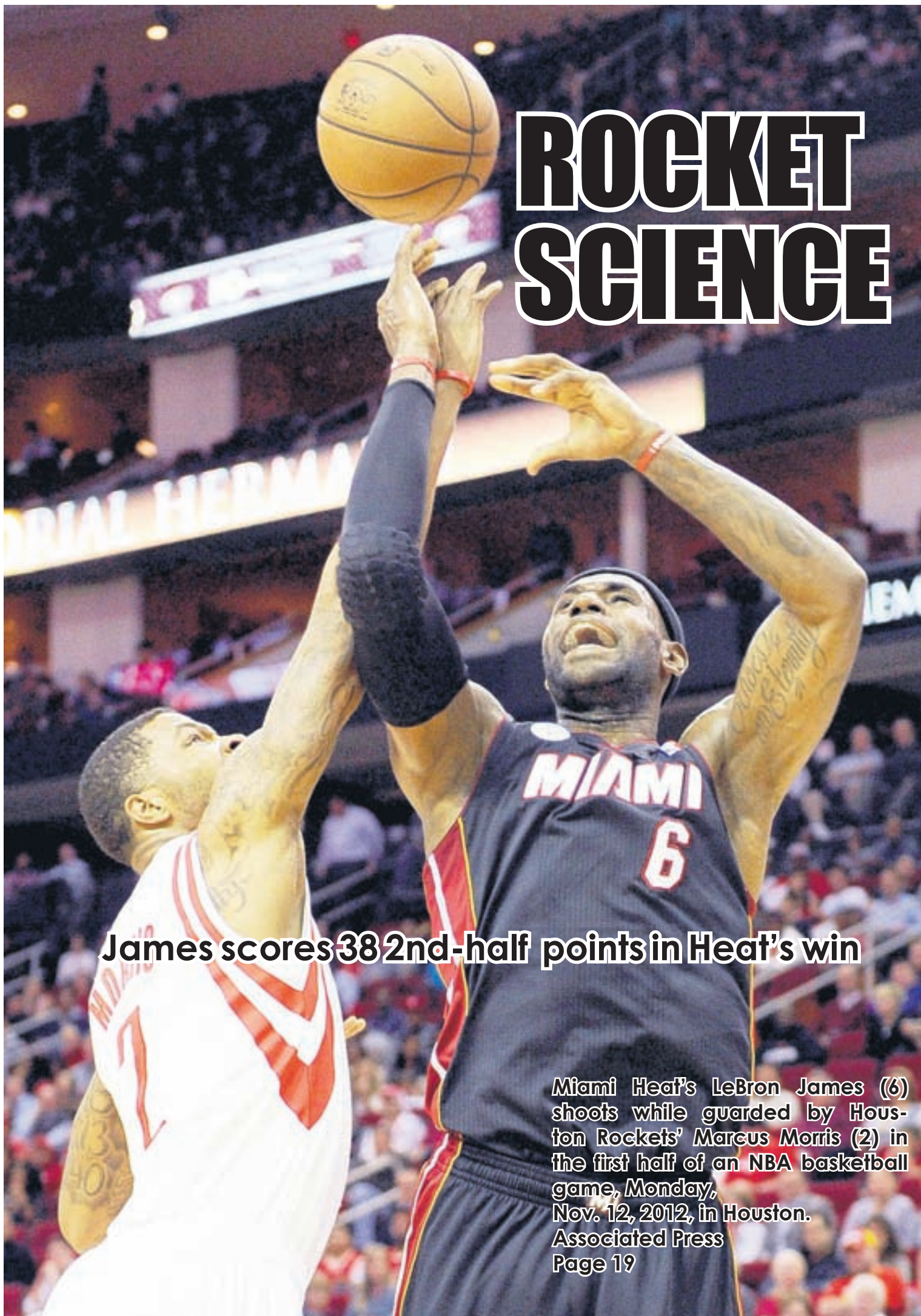
Fellow inductees Joe Sakic and Adam Oates, both from Canada, were also in the NHL when the last lock-out hit, while Pavel Bure of Russia was already retired.

With the league back in another dark period brought on by another labor dispute, the induction ceremony was more subdued than usual, though all four new members seem to have thoroughly enjoyed their weekend.

They were to have been honored at Air Canada Centre before a scheduled Maple Leafs-Devils game last Friday — a missed opportunity in particular for Sundin, the longtime Leafs captain, and Oates, who grew up in Toronto.

Sundin is back living in his native Sweden but the impact of another work stoppage hasn't gone unnoticed even from a distance.

Continued on page 20



ROCKET SCIENCE

James scores 38 2nd-half points in Heat's win

Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots while guarded by Houston Rockets' Marcus Morris (2) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012, in Houston. Associated Press Page 19



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In this March 6, 2012, file photo, Washington Nationals manager Davey Johnson, left, talks to the media; and in this Oct. 5, 2012, file photo, Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin smiles before batting practice.



Associated Press

Johnson, Melvin picked as managers of the year

BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Davey Johnson of the Washington Nationals, and Bob Melvin of the Oakland Athletics were chosen as managers of the year on Tuesday after guiding their teams to huge turnaround seasons. Melvin beat out Baltimore's Buck Showalter for the AL honor in a close vote by a Baseball Writers' Association of America panel. Under Melvin, the A's made a 20-game improvement, finished 94-68 and won the AL West.

Johnson was an easy choice for the NL prize after the Nationals - who had never enjoyed a winning year - posted the best record in the majors and made their first playoff appearance.

Johnson, who turns 70 in January, was honored for

the second time. He was tabbed as the AL's top manager in 1997, hours after he resigned from the Orioles in a feud with owner Peter Angelos.

This time, Johnson will get a while to enjoy the accolade. The Nationals announced this month that he will guide them in 2013, when he will be the oldest manager in the majors. He's set to leave the Washington dugout and become a team consultant in 2014. "World Series or bust," Johnson said on the MLB Network. "It's going to be my last year, anyway."

Melvin also became a two-time winner, having been chosen in 2007 with Arizona. Melvin got 16 first-place votes. Showalter got the other 12 firsts, and Robin Ventura of the Chicago White Sox finished third. □

Lindsey Vonn being tested for 'severe intestinal pain'



In this Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the U.S., clears a gate during the first run of an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in Soelden, Austria.

Associated Press

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

Lindsey Vonn remained hospitalized in Colorado on Tuesday with "severe intestinal pain" that has been affecting her for the past two weeks. Vonn's spokesman, Lewis Kay, wrote in an email that the four-time overall World Cup champion was "awaiting results from diagnostic testing for severe intestinal pain." Vonn's ski technician, Heinz Haemmerle, told The Associated Press that this isn't the first time the racer has gone to the hospital in Vail. Haemmerle, who prepares Vonn's Head skis and has been on hand in Colorado awaiting her recovery, said that Vonn hasn't trained since going out in the second run of the season-opening giant slalom on Oct. 27 in Soelden, Austria. "She told me she feels bad and has pain all over her

body and that her bones are hurting ... she's been (to the hospital) two or three times. This is the first time she's stayed overnight," Haemmerle said in a telephone interview. "The coaches also don't know. First they told me we would train again Monday, then Wednesday, now the end of the week." Vonn recently requested to compete in a men's downhill race, only to be rejected by the International Ski Federation. She was hoping to enter the men's race Nov. 24 at Lake Louise, Alberta. Had she been allowed to compete against the men, Vonn would have missed the two women's races in Aspen, Colorado, because they take place the same weekend. Vonn also skipped a slalom in Levi, Finland, last weekend, although Haemmerle said that was their plan to gain more training

for Aspen even before the illness.

Haemmerle said Vonn attended the Snow Ball in New York after Soelden, then went to Colorado.

"There's been no news, so we're kind of worried," Head racing director Rainer Salzgeber said from Austria. "It's not good." Both Haemmerle and Salzgeber confirmed that Vonn has no broken bones or skiing injuries. While extremely successful, Vonn's career has been marked by a series of ski-related injuries — most notably at her last five major championships. She had to withdraw midway through the 2011 world championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, with a mild concussion and battled through a severely bruised shin to win the downhill and take bronze in the super-G at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. At the 2009 worlds in Val d'Isere, France, she sliced her thumb open on a champagne bottle after sweeping gold in downhill and super-G, forcing her out of the giant slalom.

At the 2007 worlds in Are, she injured her knee in training and missed the slalom and giant slalom; and at the 2006 Turin Olympics, she had a horrific crash in downhill training and went directly from her hospital room to the mountain to compete in four of her five events. □

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James scores 38 in Heat's 113-110 win at Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — LeBron James scored a season-high 38 points, Chris Bosh had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Houston Rockets 113-110 on Monday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points for the Heat, who shot 47.6 percent from 3-point range (10 of 21) and 51 percent from the field overall.

Chandler Parsons scored a career-high 25 points and Omer Asik had a career-best 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who led 110-106 with 90 seconds left.

James went 3 for 4 from the free throw line over the next minute, then drove for the go-ahead layup with 19 seconds left.

Jeremy Lin shot an airball from 3-point range with 10 seconds left, Wade caught it and the Heat escaped with their sixth straight win over Houston.

CELTICS 101, BULLS 95

CHICAGO (AP) — Rajon Rondo had 20 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists to lead Boston over Chicago. Rondo took advantage of Bulls point guard Nate Robinson for three quarters, helping the Celtics build a 12-point lead on 56 percent shooting. He extended his streak of consecutive games with 10 or more assists to 31, the longest in the NBA since John Stockton had 37 straight from Feb. 27 to Nov. 29, 1989.

Brandon Bass led four other Celtics in double figures with 16 points as Boston held off a furious late Chicago rally to snap a five-game losing streak at the United Center. Kevin Garnett had 15 points.

Luol Deng led the Bulls with

26 points and 11 rebounds. The Celtics became the first team to score 100 points against the Bulls since April 8 last season, ending a streak that had reached 15 straight games.

JAZZ 140, RAPTORS 133, 3OT

TORONTO (AP) — Paul Millsap scored seven of his 34 points in the third overtime, Al Jefferson had 24 points and 17 rebounds, and Utah beat Toronto for its first road win of the season.

The Jazz rallied after trailing by 11 in the fourth quarter, and no basket was bigger than Jefferson's 3-pointer with 2 seconds left in regulation, a shot that bounced around the rim before falling through.

It was just the second 3-pointer of Jefferson's nine-year career. He came in 1 for 25 from 3-point range.

Mo Williams had 17 points and 14 assists, Randy Foye scored 20 points and Marvin Williams had 17 as the Jazz opened a four-game trip by avoiding their first 0-5 start away from home since 1987.

DeMar DeRozan matched his career high with 37 points, Jose Calderon had 20 points and 17 assists, and Amir Johnson fouled out with 11 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost their fourth straight. Toronto has dropped eight consecutive home games against Utah.

THUNDER 92, PISTONS 90

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan

(AP) — Russell Westbrook scored a season-high 33 points and keyed a fourth-quarter comeback as Oklahoma City rallied to beat winless Detroit.

The loss left the Pistons with an 0-8 record, the worst start in franchise history. It was the fourth game in five



Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) heads to the basket between Miami Heat's Norris Cole (30) and Udonis Haslem (40) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012, in Houston. The Heat won 113-110.

Associated Press

nights for the Thunder, who improved to 6-2.

Westbrook, who also had 10 rebounds and four assists, contributed six points — all on free throws — to a 13-0 Thunder run to open the fourth quarter that turned a 73-62 deficit into a 75-73 lead with 8:11 left.

Kevin Durant, who hit a tough runner with 47.8 sec-

onds remaining that gave Oklahoma City an 88-85 advantage, added 26 points and nine rebounds. Rodney Stuckey led the Pistons with 19 points and Greg Monroe had 17.

BUCKS 105, 76ERS 96

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brandon Jennings scored 33 points and Monta Ellis had 18 to lead Milwaukee past

Philadelphia.

The Bucks improved to 3-0 on the road for the first time since they won their first four in 2001-02. Mike Dunleavy added 13 points and Milwaukee shot around 60 percent most of the game. Jennings hit four 3-pointers, had four steals and was 5 of 5 from the free throw line. □

NFL Roundup

Roethlisberger hurt, Steelers survive Chiefs 16-13

WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) —

The Pittsburgh Steelers are right where they expected to be heading into a vital three-week span that includes two games against the AFC North-leading Baltimore Ravens.

They're just not sure quarterback Ben Roethlisberger will be along for the ride.

The Steelers survived a scare from lowly Kansas City on Monday, winning 16-13 in overtime when Lawrence Timmons intercepted Matt Cassel on the second snap of the extra session and Shaun Suisham hit a 23-yard field goal one play later.

It took some of the sting out of watching Roethlisberger head to the locker room — and ultimately the hospital — with a busted right shoulder after getting slammed to the turf by a



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is sacked by Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Tamba Hali (91) in the third quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012, in Pittsburgh. Roethlisberger left the game with a right shoulder injury.

Associated Press

pair of Kansas City linebackers in the third quarter. Coach Mike Tomlin declined to speculate on Roethlisberger's status, though backup Byron Left-

wich sounds like he's planning to be pretty busy over the next few days.

"I don't know the situation with Ben, but I've got to make sure I'm ready if he

can't go," Leftwich said.

The Steelers have won four straight and can move into first place in the division next week if they can beat the Ravens. The show-

down takes on a different hue with Roethlisberger's health in question.

"You obviously worry about it because that's your starting quarterback, you want to see him out there," Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison said. "But at the same point in time you've got a guy, two guys that are behind him who can do the job just as well if not better."

Roethlisberger completed 9 of 18 passes for 84 yards and a touchdown before leaving. Leftwich, playing for the first time in the regular season in nearly two years, completed 7 of 14 passes for 73 yards and led the Steelers to a go-ahead field goal in the fourth quarter.

"After four or five plays, it was like riding a bike," Leftwich said. "I took a few hits. I hadn't hit the ground in a while.□"

Hockey Hof

Continued from page 17

"I think it's huge," he said. "The National Hockey League is kind of representing the game of hockey. It's the biggest representative of the game of hockey in the world. When the NHL is not going, people lose focus on hockey."

"For everybody that is involved in the sport, it's huge to get the guys back playing as soon as possible."

Added Sakic: "It hurts the players, it hurts the owners, it hurts the fans and it hurts the game."

The two men at the center of collective bargaining negotiations, commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, both attended Monday's ceremony. Bettman referred to "difficult times" after paying tribute to the inductees in a speech.

All four members of this year's Hall of Fame class were affected by a labor disruption during their ca-



Hockey Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Mats Sundin, of Sweden, Joe Sakic, Adam Oates and Pavel Bure, of Russia, pose for a photograph with their rings at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

Associated Press

reers — Bure was playing for the Vancouver Canucks during the lockout-shortened 1994-95 season — and it's reasonable to expect that trend will continue for some time after four work stoppages in the last 20 years.

Oates finds himself in a unique position because the lockout has delayed the start of his first season as a head coach with the

Washington Capitals. He was hired on the same June day he found out he was heading into the Hall, making "for a pretty emotional 15 minutes."

The last season of his playing career came in 2003-04 with the Edmonton Oilers.

"I thought about (continuing to play) because I wasn't happy with my year in Edmonton, so I didn't really want to go out that

way," he said. "I was considering it, but (the lockout) made it easy."

He doesn't harbor any regrets about being quietly ushered out of the game. In fact, it fit the personality of somebody who avoided the limelight by making his name as an excellent passer rather than a scorer.

"That's the kind of guy I am — a little bit understated," Oates said. "Actually Joe (Sakic) said it this morning: We're all understated guys, believe it or not."

Bure's career was ended prematurely because of knee injuries and he ended up playing only 702 NHL games, just slightly less than half as many as Sundin, Sakic and Oates. But he made the most of what time he had by scoring 437 goals.

He never dreamed he'd find a plaque with his name in the Hall and spoke with emotion during his induction speech.

"I think it's the biggest achievement you can get

in hockey," Bure said. "The selection committee combines everything you've done for hockey worldwide, so for me it's a huge honor. It feels great."

For now, ice hockey at its highest level remains on hold.

Sakic works as an adviser to the Colorado Avalanche and is as anxious as anybody to see the NHL resume. Looking back, the pain of sitting out an entire season quickly went away when a new CBA was signed.

"I remember coming back that next training camp I was pretty excited to be back and playing the game," said Sakic. "You realize how much you miss the game."□





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Good comeback for Woods, but no comeback award

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods was on the ballot when the U.S. PGA Tour began voting on its annual awards, but only in one category.

Even though Woods missed four months with an Achilles' heel injury last year, failed to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs and finished out of the top 125 on the money list for the first time in his career, he is not under consideration as the U.S. PGA Tour comeback player of the year.

Neither is anyone else, for that matter.

The tour has changed the definition of the award, which began in 1991 and over the years had been given to players who came back from injury (Steve Jones, Steve Pate), a life-threatening illness (Paul Azinger) and bad play (long list, but notably Steve Stricker — twice).

Now it will be awarded to a player "who through cour-

age and perseverance has overcome extraordinary adversity, such as a personal tragedy or debilitating illness, to make a significant and meaningful contribution to the game of golf."

The award will be determined by tour Commissioner Tim Finchem and the four players on the policy board, assuming there is a candidate.

It is not unprecedented for no one to win the award: There was no one on the ballot in 2009 and 2011. That's partly due to what now has become a running joke, with Stricker becoming the only player to win the comeback award in consecutive years — in 2006 after he started the year with limited status and was considered for the Ryder Cup team, and in 2007 when he won a FedEx Cup playoff event and was No. 4 on the money list.

Andy Pazder, the tour's chief of operations, said potential candidates

down the road could include Jarrod Lyle, who is in Australia recovering from a recurrence of leukemia, or even someone like Chris Smith, whose life suffered a crushing setback when his wife was killed in a car crash.

For Woods — and J.B. Holmes, who had brain surgery last year — there was little doubt they were going to return to play.

Rory McIlroy is virtually certain to be voted tour player of the year after winning four times, including an eight-shot victory at the U.S. PGA Championship and back-to-back wins in the FedEx Cup playoffs. He also won the money title (in the U.S. and in Europe) and the Vardon Trophy.

John Huh is the leading candidate for rookie of the year. He won in Mexico in an opposite-field event, which wasn't nearly as impressive as Ted Potter Jr. winning The Greenbrier Classic. What was in Huh's favor was that he started



American golfer Tiger Woods is in the spotlight at the Marina Bay Sands on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012 in Singapore. Woods is in the city-state to attend golf clinics in a bid to promote and inspire young golfers from the Singapore Sports School. Associated Press

the FedEx Cup playoffs at No. 25 and was the only rookie to make it to the Tour Championship.

Balloting ends on Nov. 30 and the winners will be announced in early December. □

Early Bird Menu

Appetizer

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Entrees:

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Land & Sea

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with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast

Served with Mushroom sauce,
topped with cheese
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stuffed potato

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Personal Health:

Plan to become an ex-smoker for good!

JANE E. BRODY

© 2012 New York Times

Few smokers would claim that it's easy to quit. The addiction to nicotine is strong and repeatedly reinforced by circumstances that prompt smokers to light up.

Yet the millions who have successfully quit are proof that a smoke-free life is achievable, even by those who have been regular, even heavy, smokers for decades.

Today, 19 percent of U.S. adults smoke, down from more than 42 percent half a century ago, when Luther Terry, the U.S. surgeon general, formed a committee to produce the first official report on the health effects of smoking. Ever-increasing restrictions on where people can smoke have helped to swell the ranks of former smokers.

Now, however, as we approach the American Cancer Society's 37th Great American Smokeout on Thursday, the decline in adult smoking has stalled despite the economic downturn and the soaring price of cigarettes.

Currently, 45 million Americans are regular smokers who, if they remain smokers, can on average expect to live 10 fewer years. Half will die of a tobacco-related disease, and many others will suffer for years with smoking-caused illness. Smoking adds \$96 billion to

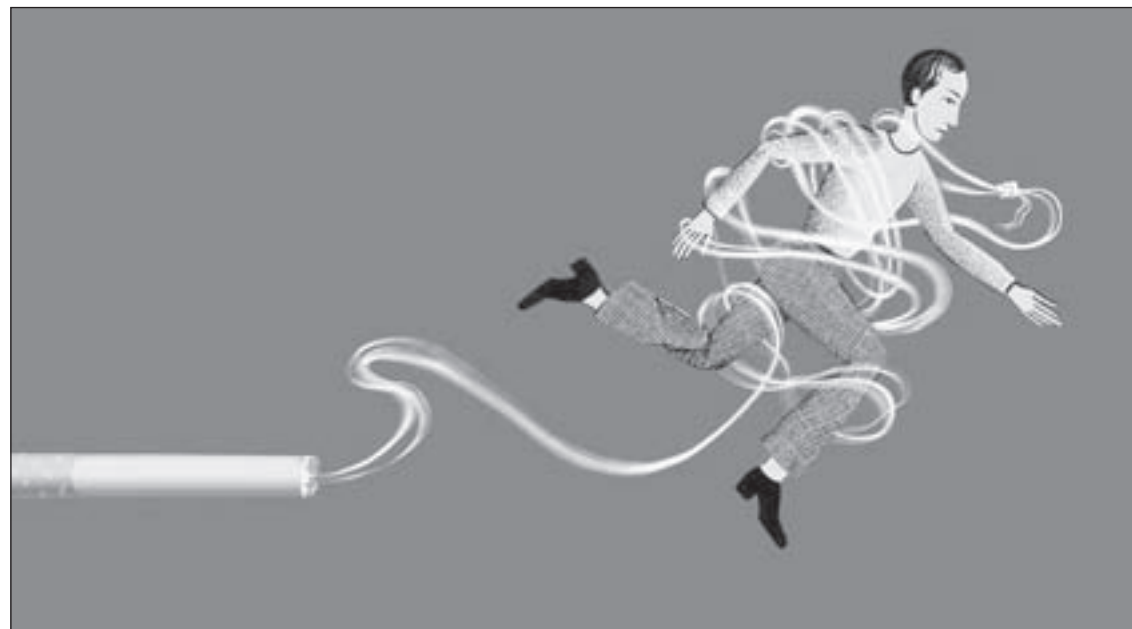
the annual cost of medical care in this country, Dr. Nancy A. Rigotti wrote in The Journal of the American Medical Association last month. Even as some adult smokers quit, their ranks are being swelled by the 800,000 teenagers who

Challenging, yes, but by no means impossible. On the Web you can download a "Guide to Quitting Smoking," with detailed descriptions of all the tools and tips to help you become an ex-smoker once and for all. Or consult the new book

you can stop being a slave to your cigarettes."

ADDICTION AND WITHDRAWAL

Nicotine beats a direct path to the brain, where it provides both relaxation and a small energy boost.



become regular smokers each year and by young adults who, through advertising and giveaways, are now the prime targets of the tobacco industry. People ages 18 to 25 now have the nation's highest smoking rate: 40 percent. I had to hold my breath the other day as dozens of 20-somethings streamed out of art gallery openings and lighted up. Do they not know how easy it is to get hooked on nicotine and how challenging it can be to escape this addiction?

by Dr. Richard Brunswick, a retired family physician in Northampton, Mass., who says he's helped hundreds of people escape the clutches of nicotine and smoking. (The printable parts of the book's provocative title are "Can't Quit? You Can Stop Smoking.") "There is no magic pill or formula for beating back nicotine addiction," Brunswick said. "However, with a better understanding of why you smoke and the different tools you can use to control the urge to light up,

But few smokers realize that the stress and lethargy they are trying to relieve are a result of nicotine withdrawal, not some underlying distress. Break the addiction, and the ill feelings are likely to dissipate. Physical withdrawal from nicotine is short-lived. Four days without it and the worst is over, with remaining symptoms gone within a month, Brunswick said. But emotional and circumstantial tugs to smoke can last much longer. Depending on when and

why you smoke, cues can include needing a break from work, having to focus on a challenging task, drinking coffee or alcohol, being with other people who smoke or in places you associate with smoking, finishing a meal or sexual activity, and feeling depressed or upset.

To break such links, you must first identify them and then replace them with other activities, like taking a walk, chewing sugar-free gum or taking deep breaths.

These can help you control cravings until the urge passes.

If you've failed at quitting before, try to identify what went wrong and do things differently this time, Brunswick suggests. Most smokers need several attempts before they can become permanent ex-smokers.

Perhaps most important is to be sure you are serious about quitting; if not, wait until you are. Motivation is half the battle. Also, should you slip and have a cigarette after days or weeks of not smoking, don't assume you've failed and give up. Just go right back to not smoking.

AIDS FOR QUITTING

Many if not most smokers need two kinds of assistance to become lasting ex-smokers: psychological support and medicinal aids. □

Hospitals ordered to do more to protect kidney donors

KEVIN SACK

© 2012 New York Times

ST. LOUIS — Addressing long-held concerns about whether organ donors have adequate protections, the country's transplant regulators acted late Monday to require that hospitals thoroughly inform living kidney donors of the risks they face, fully evaluate their medical and psychological suitability, and then track their health for two years after donation. Enactment of the policies by the United Network for Organ Sharing, which man-

ages the transplant system under a federal contract, followed six years of halting development and debate. Meeting at a St. Louis hotel, the group's board voted to establish uniform minimum standards for a field long regarded as a medical and ethical Wild West. The organ network, whose initial purpose was to oversee donation from people who had just died, has struggled at times to keep pace with rapid developments in donation from the living. "There is no question that this is a major development

in living donor protection," said Dr. Christie P. Thomas, a nephrologist at the University of Iowa and the chairman of the network's living donor committee. Yet some donor advocates complained that the measures did not go far enough and argued that the organ network, in its mission to encourage transplants, has a conflict of interest when it comes to safeguarding donors. Three years ago, the network issued some of the same policies as voluntary guidelines, only to have the

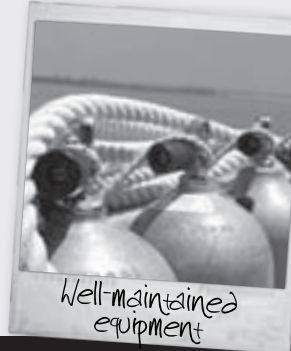
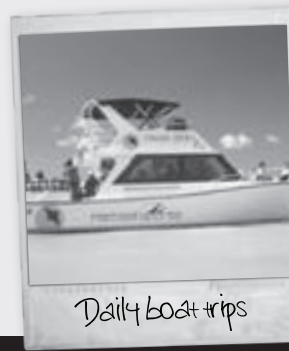
Department of Health and Human Services insist they be made mandatory. Brad Kornfeld, who donated a kidney to his father in 2004, told the board that it had been impossible to find good information about what to expect, leaving him to search for answers on unreliable Internet chat rooms. He said he had almost backed out. "If information is power," said Kornfeld, a Coloradan who serves on the living donor committee, "the lack of information is crippling." He added, "It troubles me

to say this, but living donors often feel somewhat overlooked." Under the policies approved this week, the organ network will require hospitals to collect medical data, including laboratory test results, on most living donors to study lasting effects. Results must be reported at six months, one year and two years. Similar regulations have been in place since 2000, but they did not require blood and urine testing, and hospitals were allowed to report donors who could not be found as simply lost. □

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Microsoft releases IE 10 browser for Windows 7

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The latest version of Microsoft's Web browser is now available to the vast audience connecting to the Internet on personal computers running on the Windows 7 operating system. The redesigned browser, Internet Explorer 10, made its debut last month when Microsoft released Windows 8, which makes dramatic changes to an operating system that has been powering PCs for decades. Internet Explorer 10 initially is being introduced Tuesday to Windows 7 users in a "preview," or test, mode. The new browser isn't compatible with XP, Vista and any other older Windows version.

Although Microsoft is staking its future on Windows 8, far more PCs rely on Windows 7. Microsoft Corp. says more than 670 million licenses for Windows 7 have been sold since its release in 2009. Windows 8 is unlikely to approach that level of usage until at least 2014, based on analyst forecasts. Desktops, laptops and tablet computers running on Windows 8 are sold with Internet Explorer 10 already installed. Those with older Windows versions will have to download and install the new browser separately.

Although Internet Explorer 10 is supposed to process Web pages more quickly and smoothly than its predecessors, it may have limited appeal to Windows 7 users. That's because Microsoft primarily designed Internet Explorer 10 for tablet computers and other devices, including a new breed of PCs that have

touch-screen displays. Relatively few Windows 7 PCs can be controlled with fingers on a display screen.

Microsoft is hoping many website developers will download and install Internet Explorer 10 on their Windows 7 machines and see the browser's potential for making online services more compelling and dynamic. If that happens, more website may include features that take advantage of Internet Explorer 10's full capabilities on the bevy of Windows 8 machines expected to be sold during the next year, said Ryan Gavin, Microsoft's general manager for the browser. Internet Explorer 10's main purpose is to make viewing websites as enjoyable and convenient as using applications tailor-made for specific mobile devices. For instance, when reading an article on a news site, users of Internet Explorer 10 can just swipe across the screen to continue reading the next page instead of having to scroll down to click on a link, as most browsers require. Microsoft also says games such as "Contre Jour" played on Internet Explorer 10 will work as well, or even better, than those packaged in applications. Realizing that goal is crucial to Microsoft as it tries to make a bigger splash in the smartphone and tablet markets. It probably will take years before mobile devices running on Windows 8 boast as many applications as their competitors, giving Microsoft an added incentive to build a superior Web browser. The mobile operating systems designed by Apple Inc. and Google Inc. each



Microsoft India Chairman Bhaskar Pramanik gives his presentation at the launch of Microsoft Windows 8, in Bangalore, India, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012.

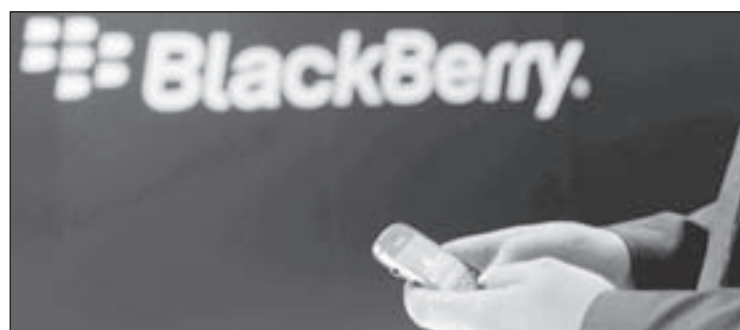
Associated Press

boast more than 700,000 applications. Microsoft also hopes Internet Explorer 10 can reverse recent trends in the Web browser market. By some estimates,

Google's Chrome browser has supplanted Internet Explorer as the world's most popular browser. Other research firms still as-

sert that Internet Explorer remains the most widely used, although all measures show it has been losing market share to Chrome, Mozilla's Firefox and Apple's Safari. □

RIM to release new BlackBerrys soon after January 30 launch



In this Nov. 8, 2011, file photo, a BlackBerry employee holds a mobile phone of BlackBerry in Berlin.

Associated Press

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Research In Motion Ltd. will release its much-delayed BlackBerry 10 smartphones "not too

long" after a launch event on Jan. 30, a senior executive said Tuesday. Chief Operating Officer Kristian Tear said the company is still fine-tuning the

new phones.

The new phones are seen as critical to RIM's survival as the smartphone pioneer struggles in North America to hold on to customers who are abandoning BlackBerrys for flashier iPhones and Android phones. The new BlackBerry 10 system is designed for the touch screen, Internet browsing and apps experience that customers now expect. RIM's current software is still focused on email and messaging and is less user-friendly, agile and robust than iPhone or Android. □

US stocks fall in uneven trading, Greece woes

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks closed lower after uneven trading Tuesday as fears about the "fiscal cliff" and Greece tipped major indexes between gains and losses. A surge in Home Depot's stock prevented a steeper drop for the Dow Jones industrial average. The Dow closed down 58.90 points, or 0.5 percent, at 12,756.18. It would have been lower without support from Home Depot, whose stock jumped 3.6 percent after the big-box retailer beat expectations for its fiscal third-quarter earnings. Home Depot is benefiting from the gradual housing recovery and rebuilding efforts after Superstorm Sandy. Home Depot rose \$2.22 to \$63.38. Stocks had opened lower after European leaders postponed the latest aid package for Greece. The Dow turned positive in the first hour of trading and rose solidly through

the morning, gaining as much as 83 points. Starting around 2 p.m., the average slid steadily into the red. Other indexes also closed lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.50 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,374.53. The Nasdaq composite index fell 20.37 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,883.89. Investors are trading against the backdrop of the "fiscal cliff," a set of U.S. government spending cuts and tax increases that will take effect automatically at the beginning of next year unless U.S. leaders reach a compromise before then. Worries about the fiscal cliff pushed U.S. stocks to one of their worst weekly losses of the year last week after voters re-elected President Barack Obama and a deeply divided Congress. Obama met Tuesday with labor leaders and others who advocate higher taxes on the wealthy and want to protect health benefits for seniors and other gov-

ernment programs. Obama will meet with business leaders Wednesday. "The longer we sit and do



A protesting civil servant holds up a protest banner that reads "IMF Get Out" in Athens on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012. U.S. stocks closed lower after uneven trading Tuesday as fears about Greece and the "fiscal cliff" tipped major indexes between gains and losses.
(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

nothing" about the nation's fiscal issues, "the more this market is going to oscillate between positive 40 and negative 60, until we know what's going to happen

next with all this uncertainty," said Craig Johnson, senior technical research strategist with Piper Jaffray & Co. in Minneapolis. Johnson expects the S&P 500 will reach 1,550 in the next six months as investors get over their lingering wooziness from the Great Recession and companies understand better how government policy on taxes, health care and spending will affect them. European stocks had been lower but rose after trading opened in New York. Benchmark indexes in France, Britain and Germany closed modestly higher. Traders in Europe are concerned because finance ministers postponed \$40 billion in desperately needed aid for Greece. The news surprised investors. A day earlier, there was word that leaders had prepared a "positive" report on Greece, making it appear likely that the aid would be released. □

Microsoft says Windows head Sinofsky leaving

REDMOND, Washington (AP) — Microsoft Corp. said that Steven Sinofsky, the president of its Windows and Windows Live operations, is leaving the company.

Sinofsky's departure comes just weeks after the Redmond, Washington state, software company launched Windows 8, which represented a major overhaul of its ubiquitous computer operating system. Company veteran Julie Larson-Green has been promoted to lead all Windows software and hardware engineering, Microsoft said Monday. Tami Reller will take over responsibility for the Windows business while retaining her posts as chief financial officer and chief marketing officer. The company did not say why Sinofsky is leaving. In a statement, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer expressed gratitude for Sinofsky's contribution to the company. He indicated the need for the company to further integrate its array of offerings, which in addition to Windows includes services such as Bing, Skype and Xbox and a new tablet computer, as it begins what he called "a new era at Microsoft." Ballmer said "it is imperative that we continue to drive alignment across all Microsoft teams, and have more integrated and rapid development cycles for our offerings." The launch of Windows 8 last month heralded the biggest change to the industry's dominant operating system in at least 17 years. It attempts to bridge the gap between personal computers and fast-growing tablets with its touch-enabled interface. Sinofsky joined Microsoft as a software design engineer in 1989. Before heading the Windows division, his work included overseeing the development of Microsoft Office products. Larson-Green has been with Microsoft since 1993. □

Vodafone writes down units in Spain, Italy

KEVIN J. O'BRIEN
© 2012 New York Times

BERLIN — Vodafone on Tuesday wrote down the value of its network businesses in Spain and Italy by 5.9 billion pound as the British carrier struggled to weather southern Europe's economic downturn. The nearly \$9.3 billion charge pushed Vodafone, based in Newbury, England, to a 1.9 billion pound loss in the six months through Sept. 30 after a 6.6 billion pound profit a year earlier. The Vodafone chief executive, Vittorio Colao, blamed southern Europe's economic woes, which has led to rising unemployment and economic stagnation in Spain and Italy, where Vodafone owns the No. 2 carriers behind Telefonica and Telecom Italia Mobile. "Our results reflect tough market conditions, mainly in southern Europe," Colao said.

He reiterated, however, that the company's strategy remains one of cost-cutting and investing in faster networks to increase the sale of wireless data and offset other declines. Vodafone, the largest tele-



Vodafone on Tuesday wrote down the value of its businesses in Spain and Italy by 5.9 billion pounds.
(Handout Photo)

com in Europe by market capitalization, saw its shares in London fall by as much as 4.5 percent to 159.1 pence on Tuesday afternoon. In the six months through September, Vodafone said its total revenue fell 7.4 per-

cent to 21.8 billion pounds from 23.5 billion pounds a year earlier. In southern Europe, the declines were twice as steep, with revenue falling 18.1 percent to just under 5 billion pounds. Revenue fell by 18.4 percent in Italy and 19.3 percent in Spain, Vodafone said. About half of the declines stemmed from the weakening of the euro against the pound, which eroded the value of Vodafone's earnings in the single-currency bloc. The British operator also faltered in Germany, Vodafone's largest single market in Europe, where revenue from voice service and text messaging, its traditional source of earnings, is being increasingly eroded by free Internet-based mobile calling and smartphone message applications. In Germany, where the company and T-Mobile are roughly equal as market leaders, revenue fell 6.5 per-

cent to 3.9 billion pounds. "Germany experienced a sharp slowdown in revenue momentum as well as pressure on margins," Jerry Dellis, an analyst in London at Jefferies International, a securities and investment bank, wrote in a note to clients. Massive writedowns are no stranger to Vodafone, which rose to global prominence in the late 1990s through a series of aggressive mergers and acquisitions in Europe and Asia, and the purchase of a 45 percent stake in Verizon Wireless, the largest U.S. wireless carrier. But the company has periodically overreached during its evolution, and economic downturns set off large accounting corrections to the value of its business. Twelve years ago, Vodafone wrote down the value of its business by the equivalent of \$6.5 billion. □

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Home Depot 3Q results up, beat Street's view

ATLANTA (AP) — A boost from the gradually recovering housing market helped boost Home Depot's net income in its fiscal third quarter. Home improvement companies have long been under pressure due to the weak housing market, as consumers cut back on large-scale renovation projects. But they stand ready to benefit as evidence mounts that the housing market is slowly improving. Last week a measure of U.S. home prices reported by real estate data provider CoreLogic climbed the most in six years. And low interest ratings are making it attractive for those that can afford purchases. New home sales jumped last month to the highest annual pace in the past two and a half years. And while sales of previously occupied homes dipped in

September, they have risen steadily in the past year. Home Depot's CEO said the slowly recovering housing market is reflected in results, although credit availability remains an issue. "Our third-quarter results were better than we expected and reflected, in part, what we believe is the start of the path toward the healing of the housing market," Chairman and CEO Frank Blake said in a statement on Tuesday. In a call with analysts, Blake added he sees the housing market becoming "an assist to our growth rather than an anchor." His statement signaled a "stronger tone" on the housing market than in prior quarters, said NBG Productions analyst Brian S. Sozzi, who called the remarks encouraging. Home Depot Inc.'s smaller rival Lowe's Cos. reports re-



A boost from the gradually recovering housing market helped Home Depot's net income edge up in its fiscal third quarter.

sults on Monday. For the period ended Oct. 28, Home Depot Inc. reported net income of \$947 million, or 63 cents per share. That's up from \$934 billion, or 60 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding a charge for closing some stores in China, earnings were 74 cents per share. That topped the 70 cents

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey) per share that analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted. Revenue rose more than 4 percent to \$18.13 billion.

Wall Street expected \$17.92 billion. Home Depot's stock added \$1.21, or 2 percent, to \$62.37 in premarket trading. The Atlanta company posted strong sales in the U.S., with revenue at U.S. locations open at least a year climbing 4.3 percent. For the total company, the figure increased 4.2 percent. This metric is a key gauge of a retailer's health because it excludes results from stores recently opened or closed. For the year, Home Depot now expects net income of \$2.92 per share, or \$3.03 excluding the costs of closing stores in China. □

Olympus: Investors seeking \$240M compensation

TOKYO (AP) — Olympus Corp. says nearly 50 shareholders have filed a suit seeking 19.1 billion yen (\$240 million) in compensation for their investment losses stemming from a massive accounting scandal. The Japanese camera and medical equipment maker said Tuesday that 48 mostly foreign institutional investors and pension funds filed the suit in Tokyo District Court in June. The court documents reached Olympus on Monday. The plaintiffs include the San Diego's city employees' retirement fund and a Singapore government unit. Olympus said the financial impact of the lawsuit is un-



President of Olympus Corp. Hiroyuki Sasa, left, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo when the entire board of scandal-tainted Olympus resigned. Olympus said Tuesday, Nov. 13 nearly 50 shareholders have filed a suit seeking 19.1 billion yen (\$240 million) in compensation for their investment losses.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

clear. Officials at the company have acknowledged hiding huge losses for years, using over-

seas bank accounts, paper companies and dubious acquisitions to keep them off its books. □



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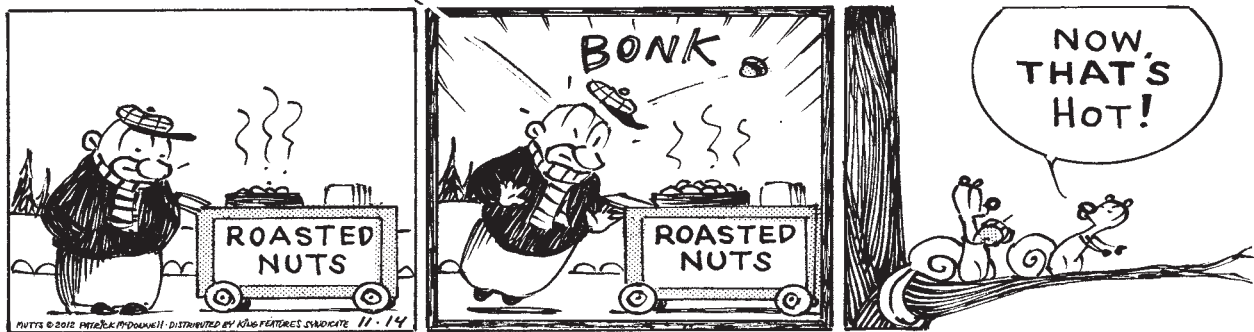
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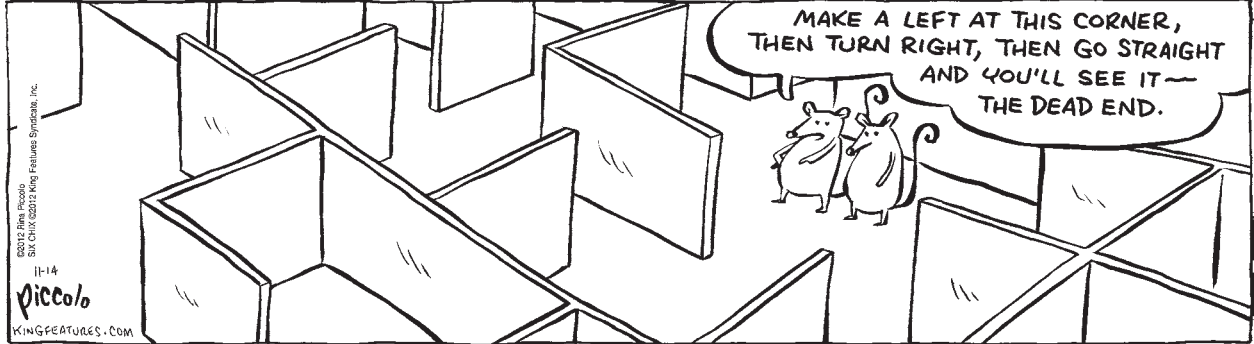
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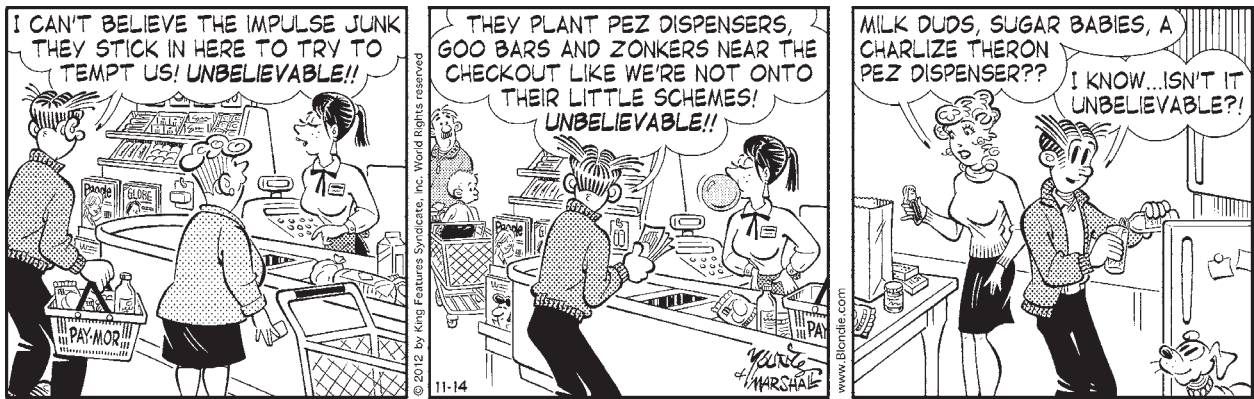
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



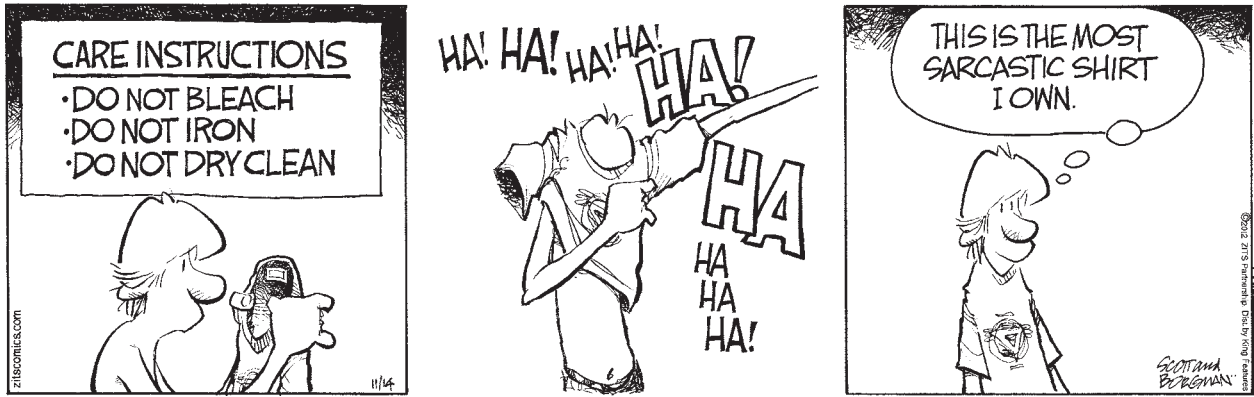
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	3			2			
2			8		4			
			1		6		7	
			9		5		2	
		5			1	4	6	9
	4						3	
7							1	
5							9	
3	1	9	6				8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

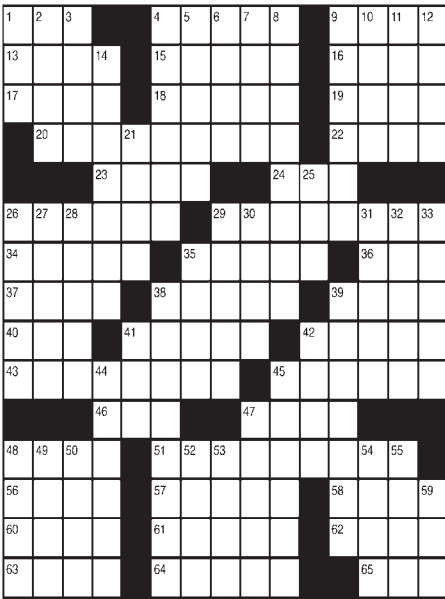
11/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	4	3	7	9	8	1	2	6
9	7	2	4	1	6	8	3	5
6	1	8	3	5	2	7	4	9
7	2	1	9	3	4	5	6	8
4	6	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
8	3	5	2	6	7	4	9	1
3	8	7	5	2	9	6	1	4
2	9	6	8	4	1	3	5	7
1	5	4	6	7	3	9	8	2

ACROSS

- 1 Traveler's lodge
4 "Remember the ___!"
9 Stir-fry pots
13 Frog's cousin
15 High-powered surgical beam
16 Actor Richard
17 Mix with a wooden spoon
18 Bawled
19 "___ want for Christmas is..."
20 Very detailed
22 Preserve
23 Gently curled, as hair
24 Bread for a Reuben
26 Like a salty solution
29 Chemistry, biology, etc.
34 Strong string
35 Reads quickly
36 Samuel's teacher
37 Sounded a bell
38 Informal street talk
39 Fishing worms, for example
40 "Roses ___ red, violets..."
41 Ornamental bird feather
42 Keep a cooking turkey moist
43 Street vendors
45 India's dollars
46 Needle hole
47 Chest
48 Long tale
51 Golfer's top
56 Was in debt
57 Chris of tennis
58 ___ up; absorb
60 Nary a one
61 Come apart
62 Create
63 Country singer Campbell
64 Base stealer's move, often
65 Fellows



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

11/14/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- 1 "___ all Greek to me"
2 Memo
3 Tack
4 Wall recess
5 Stodge's name
6 Huge continent
7 Encounter
8 Telling a waiter what you'd like
9 Lose courage
10 Make eyes at
11 Hardy cabbage
12 Make a tiny cut
14 Sketching
21 Cause of misery
25 "___! We Have No Bananas"
26 Thin piece of leather
27 In the know
28 ___ up; in a row
29 Phony deals
30 Walking stick
31 Discontinue
32 Upper crust
33 Locations
35 Speak disparagingly of
38 Pullman cars
39 Christening
41 ___ one's trade; work diligently
42 George W. ___
44 Benumb
45 Steal cattle
47 Uninterested
48 Anthem, e.g.
49 Absent GI
50 Autry or Barry
52 Egg-shaped
53 Mr. Strauss
54 Wander
55 ___ back; recant
59 Barbie's beau

ROTE	TAMES	STAB
AVID	OLIVE	CUBA
CANS	PENETRATED	
ELS	KIRK	ELUDE
	EVICT	RID
OWLETS	RINSES	
DATES	SPECS	LAP
DROP	CHALK	DELI
SEW	SOOTY	DAMON
	SNOOZE	SERENE
	PLY	LINEN
ERNIE	LOFT	TEN
BEANS	PROUT	MALE
BASE	RAISE	ARMS
SPAS	OWNED	CYST

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11/14/12



Australia hosted nearly 50,000 visitors for the solar eclipse that was visible from the Cairns-Port Douglas area in Queensland, November 14, 2012.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Solar eclipse casts shadow in Australia

KRISTEN GELINEAU
Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — From boats bobbing on the Great Barrier Reef, to hot air balloons hovering over the rainforest, and the hilltops and beaches in between, tens of thousands of scientists, tourists and amateur astronomers watched Wednesday as the sun, moon and Earth aligned and plunged northern Australia into darkness during a total solar eclipse.

Stubborn clouds that many feared would ruin the view parted — at least partly — in some areas of north Queensland, defying forecasts of a total eclipse-viewing bust and relieving spectators who had fanned out across the region to catch a rare glimpse of the celestial phenomenon.

"Total eclipses are one of the most dramatic sites that you can ever see," said Terry Cuttle of the Astronomical Association of Queensland, who has seen a dozen of them over the years. "I reckon everybody owes it to themselves to see at least one total eclipse in their life."

Spectators whooped and clapped with delight as the moon passed between the sun and Earth, leaving a slice of the continent's northeast in sudden darkness. □

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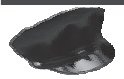


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Alaska ice tested as possible new energy source

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A half mile (800 meters) below the ground at Prudhoe Bay, above the vast oil field that helped trigger construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, a drill rig has tapped what might one day be the next big energy source.

The U.S. Department of Energy and industry partners over two winters drilled into a reservoir of methane hydrate, which looks like ice but burns like a candle if a match warms its molecules. There is little need now for methane, the main ingredient of natural gas. With the boom in production from hydraulic fracturing, the United States is awash in natural gas for the near future and is considering exporting it, but the DOE wants to be ready with methane if there's a need. "If you wait until you need it, and then you have 20 years of research to do, that's not a good plan," said Ray Boswell, technology manager for methane hydrates within the DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The nearly \$29 million science experiment on the North Slope produced 1 million cubic feet (30,000

cubic meters) of methane. Researchers have begun the complex task of analyzing how the reservoir responded to extraction.

Much is unknown but interest has accelerated over the last decade, said Tim Collett, a research geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver.

U.S. operators in Alaska, he said, may want to harvest methane so they can re-inject it into the ground. Crude oil is more lucrative than natural gas, which is routinely injected into North Slope fields to maintain underground pressure to aid in oil extraction. Japan, South Korea, India and China, however, want to cut down on natural gas imports by burning methane. Japan is setting up for a production test on a gas hydrate accumulation in the Nankai Trough south of Honshu, its main island.

"That will be the first marine gas hydrate test anywhere in the world," Collett said.

The U.S. Energy Department describes methane hydrate as a lattice of ice that traps methane molecules but does not bind them chemically. They are released when warmed or depressurized.

Methane comes from buried organic matter after



it's ingested by bacteria or heated and cooked. The gas migrates upward, under high pressure and low temperature, and can combine with water to form methane hydrate.

Most deposits are below the sea floor off the continental shelf or under permafrost. Shallow pockets of methane hydrate release the potent greenhouse gas into the atmosphere and that process is exacerbated by climate warming. Brendan Cummings of the Center for Biological Diversity said research money should be poured into renewable resources, not more fossil fuel sources. Methane is 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than CO₂, though not as long-lived.

"Any exploration activities designed to extract

methane hydrates run the risk of unintended consequences, of unleashing the monster," he said. Even if methane is extracted safely, burning it will add to climate warming, he said.

The world has a lot of methane hydrate. A Minerals Management Service study in 2008 estimated methane hydrate resources in the northern Gulf of Mexico at 21,000 trillion cubic feet (595 trillion cubic meters), or 100 times current U.S. reserves of natural gas. The combined energy content of methane hydrate may exceed all other known fossil fuels, according to the DOE.

Not all is accessible, but high concentrations in permeable rock where there's existing drilling infrastructure would be among early candidates for development. The USGS in 2008 esti-

mated 85 trillion cubic feet (2.41 trillion cubic meters) of undiscovered, technically recoverable gas within methane hydrate deposits on Alaska's North Slope. It will not be simply dug out of the ground, Boswell said. "One of the basic messages is, we're not mining," he said. "It's using existing drilling techniques."

Methane could be extracted by lowering pressure or increasing temperature in an underground reservoir.

"One of the issues with that, though, is that you are melting the ice, and adding a lot of gas and water to the reservoir, which can compromise the reservoir's strength," Boswell said.

The Alaska research focused on a method aimed at preserving the underground ice structure. The extraction technique was based on studies done by ConocoPhillips and the University of Bergen in Norway. Researchers in a laboratory injected carbon dioxide into methane hydrate. CO₂ molecules swapped places with methane molecules, freeing the methane to be harvested but preserving the ice.

The DOE worked with ConocoPhillips and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. to see if it would work in the field. They named the North Slope well Ignik Sikumi, an Inupiat Eskimo phrase that translates as "fire in the ice." □

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FILE This Friday, Nov. 9, 2012 file photo shows employees from Sotheby's auction house adjust the original Sir Peter Blake 1967 collage for the iconic Beatles album Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which will be sold at auction, during a press viewing in London.

Associated Press

Collage from Beatles album fetches \$87,720

LONDON (AP) — Sotheby's says an original piece of artwork from the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album has fetched 55,250 pounds (\$87,720) at an auction. The auction house said the original 1967 collage for the insert to the album sold to a bidder in London on Tuesday. The sale marked the first time the collage by Sir Peter Blake was on the market.

The auction house said Blake was introduced to the Beatles by his dealer, and that he and his wife worked closely with Paul McCartney and John Lennon to create the imagery of the "Sgt. Pepper." Sotheby's said the collage was sold from the collection of architect Colin St. John Wilson. The auction house had estimated that the piece would sell for between 50,000 and 80,000 pounds. □

Biden meets with U2 frontman at White House



This Oct. 10, 2012 file photo shows Bono, of the Irish rock band U2, speaking to reporters after a meeting with French President Francois Hollande at the the Elysee Palace , in Paris.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says Vice President Joe Biden has met with U2 frontman Bono to discuss global development, AIDS and efforts to fight poverty. The singer and activist has been a leading advocate for Africa, drawing attention to issues ranging from poverty

and hunger to AIDS. Spokesman Jay Carney joked that Bono and Jim Messina — President Barack Obama's campaign manager — were forming a new band. Messina also visited the White House on Tuesday. Carney says Obama did not meet with Bono. □



his undated publicity image released by NBC shows, from left, Tracy Spiridakos as Charlie Matheson, Billy Burke as Miles Matheson, Daniella Alonso as Nora, and Paras Patel as Albert, in a scene from "Revolution."

Associated Press

NBC's 'Revolution' snares Led Zeppelin songs

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — What tunes fit a post-apocalyptic society? For NBC's freshman drama "Revolution," the answer is Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" and "Since I've Been Loving You." The songs will be featured in next week's episode of "Revolution," on the same day that Led Zeppelin's "Celebration Day" album and a companion documentary on DVD will be released.

Corporate synergy led to the deal for the onetime rock band that rarely allows use of its music in Hollywood projects. "Revolution" is produced in association with Warner Bros. Television, and Led Zeppelin has a deal with Warner Music Group's publishing arm.

But it was Eric Kripke, creator and executive producer of "Revolution," who brought his series and the band together. When Warner-Chappell Music sent out an email asking if any producers on the studio lot would be interested in using Led Zeppelin songs, Kripke jumped

at the chance.

"The speed and overwhelming enthusiasm with which I responded, I think, frankly weirded them out a little," said the self-described "massive Led Zeppelin fan." His credentials: Between "Revolution" and "Supernatural," the CW drama he created, Kripke said he's probably used Led Zeppelin references in the titles of some 20 episodes. "Revolution," about an American family struggling with the nation's sudden loss of all electricity and all the technology it powered, was in part inspired by the band's music and its sense of "mythic adventure," he said.

Warner made a logical pick with "Revolution": The series benefits from a Monday berth after NBC's hit singing contest "The Voice" and started strong in the ratings, especially with the advertiser-favored young adult demographic.

The Led Zeppelin-accented episode of "Revolution" will air 10:01 p.m. EST Monday, Nov. 19. A "Revolution" promo spot featuring "Kashmir" will air through-

out this week on NBC, with an extended version available on the network's website.

The "Celebration Day" projects document the band's 2007 reunion concert at London's O2 Arena. Original members Plant, Page and John Paul Jones, along with Jason Bonham, son of the late drummer John Bonham, played to honor Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun. For the group, which disbanded after John Bonham's 1980 death, the concert was its first full show in 27 years.

The documentary, including hits "Whole Lotta Love" and "Stairway To Heaven," was released in theaters last month. □





This image released by Metropolis Collectibles, Inc. shows a drawing of actor Jack Nicholson as The Joker in Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman," drawn by film producer Michael Uslan over a photo of the actor as Jack Torrance from the film "The Shining," that was printed in The New York Post in 1980.

Associated Press

Michael Uslan's 1980 choice for Joker up for sale

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Here's the Joker!

Film producer and comics fan Michael Uslan, who acquired the rights to make Batman as a movie in 1979, knew nearly a decade before Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman" was released who the Joker would be.

It came in a burst of inspiration in 1980 from the pages in the New York Post: a publicity photo of Jack Nicholson from the "The Shining" in which he hacks through a door and announces, "Here's Johnny!"

Uslan knew immediately he'd found his clown prince of crime. Using black marker, a red pen and Wite-Out, he turned Nicholson into the DC Comics villain.

The sketch went up for auction Monday until Dec. 3 through ComicConnect.com, along with several other pieces of art and comics that Uslan has collected. □

50 and counting for Rolling Stones

DAVID BAUDER

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The official line is "we'll see." But the Rolling Stones seem in such fighting trim, clear-eyed and focused, that it's hard to believe there's not more cooking beyond the current flurry of activity surrounding the band's 50th anniversary.

The archetypal rock 'n' roll band is booked for five concerts in London and the New York area over the next month, the last one a Pay Per View event. The Stones on Tuesday released yet another hits compilation with two new songs and HBO is premiering a documentary on their formative years, "Crossfire Hurricane," on Thursday.

"Without saying yes or nay," Keith Richards said in an interview this week, "once this starts rolling, I can't see it stopping. The band feels good about themselves, they still feel they've got something to offer. Obviously there are a lot of people out there who agree. We'll go along with it."

Fifty years is hard to fathom ("It's impossible," Keith cackles. "I'm only 38."). The Rolling Stones have been through death, defections and addictions, through classic discs like "Exile on Main Street" and "Some Girls" and forgettable ones, and are still operating with Richards, Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts. Ron Wood, the new guy, joined in 1975. "I thought it would be kind of churlish not to do something," Jagger said. "Otherwise, the BBC would have done a rather dull film about the Rolling Stones."



This Oct. 18, 2012 file photo shows, from left, Charlie Watts, Bill Wyman, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones at London Film Festival American Express Gala for their film, "The Rolling Stones - Crossfire Hurricane" at Odeon West End in London.

Associated Press

Fifty days was a better yardstick when Watts first set up his drum kit. "It was quite normal for a band to last a month," he said.

The Stones formed in London in 1962 to play Chicago blues, led at the time by the late Brian Jones and pianist Ian Stewart, with boyhood friends Jagger and Richards. Bassist Bill Wyman and Watts were quick additions.

Anniversaries usually aren't big on the band's agenda, but Richards said the Rolling Stones felt external pressure to mark this one.

"This band is famous for not obeying the rules and bowing to pressure or anything," Richards said. "But over the course of the year we felt more and more aware that there are folks out there counting on us. You can't let them down. At the same time, you realize that the folks are right. Playing together over the

last five months you realize that there's this thing out of your life that's been missing."

They spent several weeks in Paris rehearsing five hours a day for their concerts, including two dress rehearsals before audiences in a club and theater. To mark the occasion, the band has dug back into its catalogue for songs like "I Wanna Be Your Man" and "The Last Time," although Richards held the line at resurrecting their first single, the Chuck Berry cover "Come On."

Jagger didn't want the band to take on too much, "but I thought it was important to do some sort of a show, even if it was just a club gig," he said. "I didn't want it to be too nostalgic and I wanted to be pretty irreverent about it. My idea of the tour is calling it 'F--- Off, We're 50.'"

Few people in the concert

industry expect the Stones to mount one of the huge world tours that they have done in the past, given ages that range from Wood's 65 to Watts' 71, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor and publisher of the trade publication Pollstar. More live shows wouldn't be a surprise, however, perhaps as residencies in a number of large cities, he said.

The band's periodic sabbaticals sometimes stretch so long that Rolling Stones fans can't help but wonder whether it's all over now. The most recent time out lasted five years. If anyone threatened to make it permanent it was Richards, always the most protective and romantic about the band, because of his best-selling autobiography that took some shots at his songwriting partner Jagger. Richards dismissed the idea that it created a barrier.

"Anybody who thinks that doesn't know the band," he said. "This band's sense of humor is basically built upon insulting each other. I'm not saying there wasn't an issue here and there, but it's really water off a duck's back ... You cannot offend a really good friend. I happened to put it in print and everybody else was saying, 'Oh, my God.' I thought it was fairly mild."

(Said Jagger: "I don't want to talk about Keith's book.") Wood is often the diplomat if things get rough between Jagger and Richards.

"I still feel that necessary sometimes," he said. "They're getting along so much better than I don't have to be the referee or the adjudicator."

Wood said he's pleased with how the band has shaken off the rust. As Richards' fellow guitarist, he sees his role as keeping the band tight, and said the Stones have a greater economy in their playing than they used to, getting to the essence of the songs. "You give Mick a song and have a good beat to it, he can entertain anyone," Watts said. "He's the best in the world at it. sailaughing. □

Man who accused Elmo puppeteer of teen sex recants

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who accused Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash of having sex with him when he was a teenage boy has recanted his story.

In a surprising turnabout on Tuesday, the man described his sexual relationship with Clash as adult and consensual.

Clash responded with a statement of his own, saying he is "relieved that this painful allegation has been put to rest."

The man, who has not identified himself, released his statement through the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, law firm Andreozzi & Associates. Sesame Workshop, which produces "Sesame Street," soon followed up by say-

ing, "We are happy that Kevin can move on from this unfortunate episode."

The episode began Monday morning, when Sesame Workshop startled the world by announcing that Clash had taken a leave of absence from "Sesame Street" in the wake of allegations that he had had a relationship with a 16-year-old.

Clash swiftly denied the charges of his accuser, who is now in his early 20s. Clash acknowledged that he is gay but said the relationship was between two consenting adults.

Neither Clash nor Sesame Workshop indicated when he might return to work on the show, on which he has performed as Elmo since 1984. □

My President Is Busy



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2012 New York Times

Israeli friends have been asking me whether a re-elected President Barack Obama will take revenge on Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu for the way he and Sheldon Adelson, his foolhardy financier, openly backed Mitt Romney. My answer to Israelis is this: You should be so lucky.

You should be so lucky that the president feels he has the time, energy and political capital to spend wrestling with Bibi to forge a peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I don't see it anytime soon. Obama has his marching orders from the American people: Focus on Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, not on Bethlehem, Palestine, and focus on getting us out of quagmires (Afghanistan) not into them (Syria). No, my Israeli friends, it's much worse than you think: You're home alone.

Of course, no one here will tell you that. To the contrary, there will surely be a new secretary of state visiting you next year with the umpteenth road map for "confidence-building measures" between Israelis and Palestinians. He or she may even tell you that "this is the year of decision." Be careful. We've been there before. If you Google "Year of decision in the Middle East," you'll get more than 100,000,000 links.

Is this good for Israel? No. It is unhealthy. The combination of America's internal focus, the post-Arab awakening turmoil and the exhaustion of Palestinians means Israel can stay in the West Bank indefinitely at a very low short-term cost but at a very high long-term cost of losing its identity as a Jewish democracy. If Israelis want to escape that fate, it is very important that they understand that we're not your grandfather's America anymore.

To begin with, the rising political force in America is not the one with which Bibi has aligned Israel. As the Israeli columnist Ari Shavit noted in the newspaper Haaretz last week: "In the past, both the Zionist movement and the Jewish state were careful to be identified with the progressive forces in the world. ... But in recent decades more and more Israelis took to leaning on the reactionary forces in American society. It was convenient to lean on them. The evangelists didn't ask difficult questions about the settlements, the tea party people didn't say a word about excluding women and minorities or about Jewish settlers' attacks and acts of vandalism against Palestinians and peace

activists. The Republican Party's white, religious, conservative wing was not agitated when the Israeli Supreme Court was attacked and the rule of law in Israel was trampled." Israel, Shavit added, assumed that "under the patronage of a radical, rightist America we can conduct a radical, rightist policy without paying the price." No more. Netanyahu can still get a standing ovation from the Israel lobby, but not at UCLA.

At the same time, U.S. policymakers have learned that the Middle East only puts a smile on our faces when it starts with them: with Israelis and Arabs. Camp David started with them. Oslo started with them. The Arab Spring started with them. When they have ownership over peace or democracy movements, those initiatives can be self-sustaining. We can amplify what they start, but we can't create it. We can provide the mediation and even the catering, but it's got to start with them.

We've learned something else from our interventions in Afghanistan and Libya: We willed the ends, but we did not will the means — that is, doing all that it would take to transform those societies. That is why we're quitting Afghanistan, staying out of Syria and relying on sanctions, as long as possible, to dissuade Iran from building a nuclear bomb. These countries are too hard to fix but too dangerous to ignore. We'll still try to help, but we'll expect regional powers, and the locals, to assume more responsibility.

Finally, we really have work to do at home. Soon Americans will be asked to pay more taxes for less government. It's coming. It will not make us isolationists, but it will change our mood and make us much pickier about where we'll get involved. That means only a radical change by Palestinians or Israelis will get us to fully re-engage.

The other day, in an interview with Israel's Channel 2, President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority declared: "Palestine for me is the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital. This is Palestine. I am a refugee. I live in Ramallah. The West Bank and Gaza is Palestine. Everything else is Israel."

This was a big signal, but Bibi scorned it.

The Israeli novelist David Grossman wrote an open letter to Netanyahu in Haaretz, taking him to task: "This is a bit embarrassing, but I will remind you, Mr. Netanyahu, that you were elected to lead Israel precisely in order to discern these rare hints of opportunity, in order to transform them into a possible lever to extricate your country from the impasse in which it has been stuck for decades." So my best advice to Israelis is: Focus on your own election — on Jan. 22 — not ours. I find it very sad that in a country with so much human talent, the Israeli center and left still can't agree on a national figure who could run against Netanyahu and his thuggish partner, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman — a man whose commitment to democracy is closer to Vladimir Putin's than Thomas Jefferson's. □



A Former Prosecutor Faces Justice



JOE NOCERA
© 2012 New York Times

In just about a month from now, Texas will witness a rare event: A former prosecutor is going to be held to account for alleged prosecutorial misconduct.

He is Ken Anderson, who for nearly 17 years was the district attorney in Williamson County, a fast-growing suburb of Austin. (In 2002, Gov. Rick Perry made him a district judge.) As Pamela Colloff writes, in a brilliant two-part series in Texas Monthly, Anderson was the kind of prosecutor who "routinely asked for, and won, harsh sentences and fought to keep offenders in prison long after they became eligible for parole."

One of Anderson's most high-profile prosecutions was of a man named Michael Morton. In 1987, Anderson prosecuted him for a heinous crime: His wife, Christine, was bludgeoned to death. Morton was then in his early 30s, with a 3-year-old son and a job at Safeway. He had never been in trouble. Yet the Williamson County sheriff, Jim Boutwell, from whom Anderson took his cues, was convinced that Morton had committed the crime.

Evidence that could be used against him — such as a plaintive note Morton wrote to his wife after she fell asleep when he was hoping to have sex — was highlighted. Evidence that suggested his innocence — most importantly, a bloodstained bandanna discovered near Morton's house — was

ignored. Worst of all, Anderson's office hid from the defense some crucial evidence that would undoubtedly have caused the jury to find Morton not guilty. By the time Morton was sentenced — to life — only his parents and a single co-worker believed he was innocent.

But he was. In October 2011, after 25 years in prison, Morton was set free. Nine years earlier, the Innocence Project, which works on behalf of people who have been wrongly prosecuted, got involved in Morton's case. After years of legal wrangling, they got hold of the hidden evidence, and a court agreed to allow DNA testing on the bloody bandanna. The DNA test not only absolved Morton but pointed to a man who had subsequently killed another woman.

Colloff's articles are gripping and powerful, but they're not as unusual as they ought to be. Stories about innocent people wrongly imprisoned are a staple of journalism. (Colloff has written about two other such prisoners in Texas.) Barry Scheck, the co-founder of the Innocence Project, told me that the group has gotten 300 people exonerated, mostly by using sophisticated DNA testing.

Sam Millsap, a former Texas prosecutor, now crusades against the death penalty because a man he prosecuted — on the basis of a single eyewitness — was put to death. He later learned that the witness had been wrong.

"I'd love to be able to tell you I am the only former elected prosecutor in the country who finds himself in the position of having to admit an error in judgment that may have led to the execution of an innocent man, but I know I am not," he said in a talk he gave a few years ago.

Very few prosecutors, however, are willing to admit they've made errors. They fight efforts to reopen cases.

"They want finality," said Ellen Yaroshefsky, a professor at Car-

dozo School of Law.

The standard for introducing evidence post-conviction is that it has to be strong enough to have changed the result. It rarely is. Some prosecutors have another incentive: hiding misconduct. Brandon Garrett, who teaches law at the University of Virginia and has written a book, "Convicting the Innocent," about exonerations, told me that in almost every case, prosecutorial misconduct is involved.

What makes the Morton case unusual is that, thanks to the Innocence Project's re-investigation, Ken Anderson will soon go before a Texas Court of Inquiry. If the court believes that Anderson's alleged misconduct rises to the level of a crime, it could refer the matter to a grand jury. But the Court of Inquiry exists only in Texas and is almost never used even there.

In truth, Anderson isn't the only Williamson County prosecutor who faced consequences as a result of the Morton case. His successor, John Bradley, was the one who had fought for years against the DNA testing of the bandanna. Seven months after Morton was set free, Bradley, who had always been a shoo-in for reelection as district attorney, was resoundingly defeated.

When I spoke to him the other day, he told me that he now believes he had been wrong to fight so hard against the DNA testing. "We shouldn't set up barriers to the introduction of new evidence," he said.

Although it would mean more work for prosecutors, Bradley now believes that examining important new evidence is "a legitimate and acceptable cost to doing business in the criminal justice system."

Bradley will leave office soon. He told me he was going to start a law practice specializing in appellate work. Here's hoping he argues some appeals for the wrongly imprisoned. □

In defense of offense: Why we gamers shoot

STEPHEN TOTILO

© 2012 New York Times

If you're playing a popular video game on your television these days, there's a good chance that you're pretending to shoot something.

The worlds of many blockbusters for the PlayStation

possibly the biggest money-maker of any piece of new entertainment of the year. These trappings don't make these games fun. The shooting does.

Shooting in video games is ultimately the connecting of Point A to Point B, the elimination of one set

hero and the voluptuous, artificially intelligent female hologram who tells our supersoldier where to go to find the next aliens to shoot. The other game is a melange of American anxieties about the backfired partnerships of the Cold War and the continuing

affair, advised the production, although his in-game cameo will now raise fewer eyebrows than will the appearance, in virtual form, of the newly resigned director of the Central Intelligence Agency, David H. Petraeus. The game's defense secretary in 2025 is voiced by an actor and mostly just stands around, loyally serving a Hillary Rodham Clinton look-alike president, his programmers doubtless unaware of how unintentionally odd their inclusion of Petraeus would be.

As interesting as the settings and situations are in Halo and Black Ops II, they're practically irrelevant to those who enjoy these games. Shooters engage people as a presentation of conundrums that last as long as a quick exchange of gunfire and that are eligible for a painless do-over after any failure.

Someone once said that video games were really just about cleaning, about finding the right tools to scrub enemies from a scene. In Halo games the vacuum, mop and dust rag

then shooting it to soften it up further, then running in to punch it, then hanging back to heal rapidly.

In Black Ops II, the micro-moments of decision-making that enrich any good shooter are merged with the bigger, story-bending choices typical in the likes of Fallout, Mass Effect and other role-playing games. This gives more agency to players and defies the concern that gaming's biggest series would dare to captivate its audience by making it passive. The end of my Black Ops II story line was radically different from the end of a colleague's. Small decisions made huge differences. This is the soul of video games.

The improved tolerance of player choice also broadens the appeal of the competitive multiplayer mode. This Call of Duty finally calculates the contribution of less skilled or more defensive players toward team goals and rewards.

Halo and Call of Duty are ultimately more poker than movie, less video, more game. Online they enrap-



In an undated handout image, a scene from the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops II." A superior video game, like the new "Halo 4" or "Call of Duty: Black Ops II," is more like chess with firepower than violent mayhem.

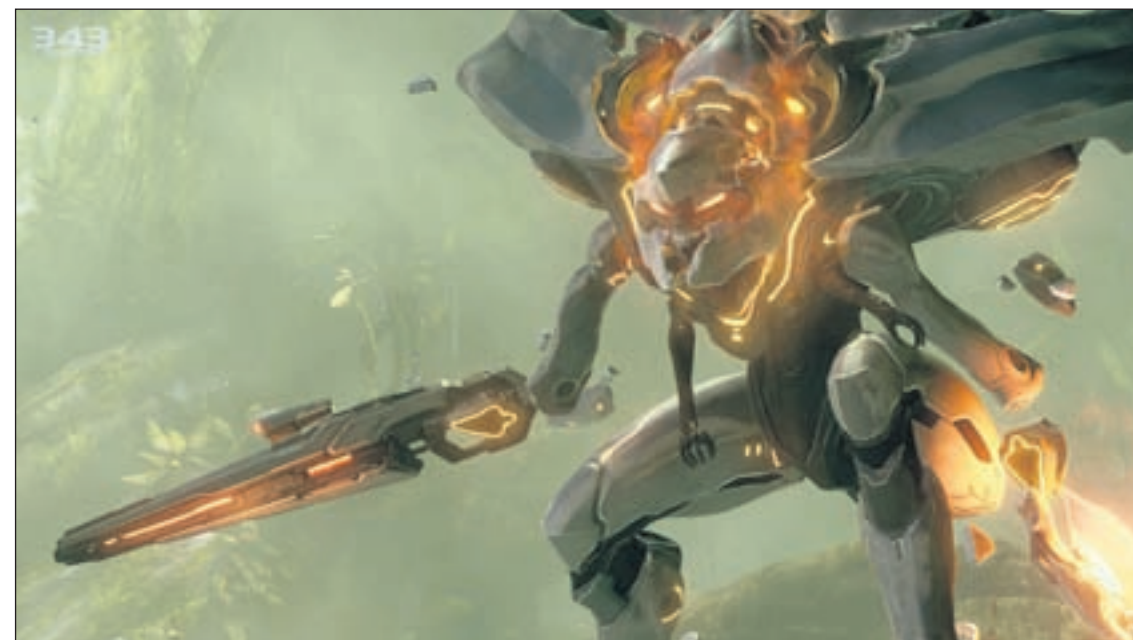
(Activision via The New York Times)

and Xbox systems are seen down the barrel of a gun, which to an outsider might seem to limit the range of possible expression. More pretend violence. More men shooting men. More expensive virtual realms in which the right to bear arms is about the only right anyone exercises.

Sure enough, two of this month's (and this year's) biggest gaming blockbusters, Halo 4 and Call of Duty: Black Ops II, consist mostly of shooting and not being shot. Both games, however, justify this point. Both demonstrate how interesting and worthwhile the shooting in a video game can be. Forget that Halo 4 is a science-fiction heroic epic, set to begin a second multimillion-selling trilogy, as we control Master Chief, the armored space Marine (and possible species savior), in gunfights on strange new worlds. Forget that Call of Duty: Black Ops II is the nth annual military shooter and

of shapes, representing the enemy, from a TV screen to keep another arrangement of shapes, representing you, illuminated and ready for the next encounter. A good shooter game is a laboratory for tactical decisions and a test chamber for your reflexes and wits. It's armed checkers or chess with no resting for turn taking. Halo 4 and Black Ops II both qualify as very good new shooters, although in surprisingly different ways. But first, some context is needed. Because even though shooting is the core of these games, it's neither what obviously distinguishes them nor what the marketers of these games or even your own eyes might suggest define them.

One game bellows barely intelligible space opera; the other spits out well-chewed Tom Clancy mixed with James Bond. One is sci-fi and allows the odd romance to flicker between our faceless supersoldier



In an undated handout image, a scene from the video game "Halo 4."

(Activision via The New York Times)

drone warfare of today. In one level of Black Ops II, set in the 1980s, the Afghan mujahedeen turn their guns on their American friends. In a level set in 2025, American drones are reprogrammed by a terrorist to bomb Los Angeles. Oliver North, the Reagan-era national security aide at the heart of the Iran-Contra

have been the gun, the grenade and the melee. Recent versions have added equipment like jetpacks or, in Halo 4, a floating sentry turret and glide jets, among other things. The typical encounter has involved approaching an enemy force and maybe tossing a grenade to make it scramble or drop its shields,

ture hundreds of thousands of players every night. The players don't show up for the love story or for cameos by scandal-engulfed military officers. They show up for the excitement of solving problems in combat. They run. They aim. They shoot. In this regard Halo 4 and Black Ops II are immense pleasures. □